Another post on the Ramsey Loft! **Slapping a big huge “negligence, animal abuse, gore, hygiene, gross bugs” warning on this document on the whole.**

And, likely to my followers relief, this is almost def going to be my *last* post on the Ramsey Loft bullshit, because, as someone who loves pigeons, this entire situation has a frustrating, depressing, and *very preventable* mess. I was not very interested in further commenting! Animal abuse is not uncommon, and it is unfortunately generally not actionable. But upon going through her tumblr, it’s become clear that the current issue of dead and dying birds is not actually new to her loft.. and I’ve had a lot of people tell me that they were not aware at all of the problems with the loft. So I felt like someone should at least lay it the fuck out.

So, first off: this entire Ramsey Loft disaster is not new. Dani, the owner of the Ramsey Loft, has been dealing with bird die-off and outbreaks since, at the very least, 2017. At the start of 2017, she had over fifty birds. [A] By September 2017, after three outbreaks of salmonella:

Happy Six Months to Silver Lining, the only 2017 Ringneck Squeaker to survive all three Salmonella outbreaks.

This child sickened with a disease that killed every other dove within 72 hours of exposure and lived through it.

Congratulations, my beautiful, strong little man!

I look eagerly forward to the day I get to welcome your peeps!

SEPTEMBER 10, 2017 (11:38 PM) 62 NOTES #RINGNECK DOVE #SILVER LINING #DANNY X MOOKI

The Ramsey Loft was down to one squab out of the entire load of doves. (source) (archive)

In 2018, after these outbreaks, she said that she was downsizing to 8 birds total, because she could not physically handle them. [A] This didn't turn out to be true. In 2019, she had at least 24 fertile birds, [A] with over thirty birds among the adults alone, which she stated was too high of an amount of birds for her to handle.. something proven afterwards when the amount of birds resulted in a massive build up of ammonia. Ammonia is hazardous to breathe, both for humans

and birds. She experienced a massive die off, where "peeps were dying every few days," [A] and ultimately stated "I lost almost every peep this round," [A] in addition to several adult birds.

One might expect she'd lessen the amount of birds after that tragedy, increase cleaning, or perhaps change several of her tactics. She did not. In March 2021, she once more stated that she needed to cut down on the amount of birds that she owned - maybe from ten breeding pairs to eight, as she had produced nineteen hatchlings on the floor who did not have homes, and who her customers did not want. [A]

And in March 2021, she once more had ammonia build-up in her loft that nearly poisoned two birds, [A] and caused her lungs distress. She did not decrease her flock size in response to this, because by 2022, she stated her ideal loft size was 40 birds - which is *already* too many birds in a 10x10 environment.

By March 2022, she had, by her own words, 74 fucking birds.

And once more, she is once more dealing with a major outbreak of a *different* pathogen that has already killed several of her birds. "Some of that was five years ago," you might say, but on the other hand, it has been over five years since some of these, and she is still making the same mistakes.

Dani says that she is always learning, but at what point does the excuse of learning, and of professing ignorance on how to keep these animals, expire? At what point does this get accepted as negligence? Because Dani has argued that, after three months of breeding ringneck doves, she had greater knowledge of the subject than breeders who had been working these birds for decades,[A] and that was over four years ago. And yet: these issues that she has in her lofts with massive die-offs are *still* reoccuring, despite the fact that these do not typically occur with most lofts.

And with that large load of birds, she is facing issues like, when they are not simply dying in droves or endlessly injuring her squabs, **cannibalism among her birds.**

She is making decisions like, instead of having a bird euthanised at the vet or using a method like cervical dislocation, which causes little to no pain to the animal, to euthanise birds by **chopping off their heads with kitchen shears.**

Keep in mind: there are tools available for assisting in cervical dislocation. The reason that this is endorsed, and other methods such as cleavers are used for slaughtering poultry, is because they are, as far as we can tell, effectively painless for the bird - death is near instantaneous, as long as the person performing it *does not flinch doing it.* Cervical dislocation is rapid. Reccomending that someone grabs their animal and *windmills them to snap their neck* is *not.* When you are having to euthanise an animal at home, your top priority should always be to complete the act in seconds, to prevent the animal from realising what is occuring.

Whenever an animal has to die, period, you are supposed to make sure they do not suffer. But when Dani has her birds euthanised at the vet, it can take literal months of them suffering before they are taken in. **In May 2020, Sun Tsu, one of her founding birds, developed what she deemed asthma and massive inflammation in his lungs. He was rocking back and forward in his cage, separated from other birds for his protection, panting through his mouth in order to breathe.** Dani decided he should be euthanised, and she took him off of antibiotics for a week, to help make sure there would be a bacterial culture on his lungs for the necropsy.

In September 2020, after three months, he would finally be euthanised. [A] In 2020, Dani said that Sun Tsu was her oldest pigeon at four years old. She began breeding and showing pigeons in 2014. [A] Pigeons can easily live to, and often over, twenty years.

I have seen lofts that breed for races, and lofts that breed for food, and lofts that breed for companionship. If you look at tumblr aviaries, or on forums, **the majority of even new breeders are not facing these massive die-offs of animals more than once or twice** - and usually, those cases are from predators breaking into their coops, a matter that's heart-wrenching, but fairly easily prevented in the future once they become aware of the problem. If a fox breaks into your coop, then you reinforce the walls of the coop, you install chicken wire around and underneath it, and you reinforce the overall protection of it.

If your stock repeatedly faces massive die-off from pathogens over the course of over five years, then what do you do? If you're the Ramsey Loft, evidently very little, because she faced massive loss in 2017, and in 2022, she is once more in the same situation - with a different pathogen, but the same end results of dead birds.

The average companion pigeon can live up to twenty years. Ten to fifteen year old pigeons are not uncommon in the community, or among most breeds. **The Ramsey Loft has been operating since 2015, at the latest**. They've had over one hundred pigeons and eggs that Dani has *admitted* to passing through her loft, and while she does breed her pigeons unusually young, and sell them at a similarly young age - even the pigeons that she keeps as pets, indoors, are not surviving. **This is not normal.**

I have had people ask me what, exactly, the Ramsey Loft has been doing wrong with her birds that I find so objectionable. In lieu of responding to multiple people, I just decided to go through her tumblr and list it all down. Linked below is a google doc with the exact break-down of everything, but as a quick summary for those who prefer tl;dr:

- **Pigeons do not typically engage in cannibalism,** consistently attack their peers, and when they have the opportunity, attack squabs.. in part, because they do not generally have the opportunity. Most lofts have nest boxes that are separate from the overall population, with doors: the Ramsey Loft keeps all nest boxes available and open-ended, causing constant fights between birds over them. [A]

- **Her birds have a history of unfortunate and unusual ailments, most of which many lofts never have the misfortune to suffer,** as well as **general negligence:**
    - She knelt on a squab, crushing his skull. [A]
    - A cage of rats in her care ate one of her pigeon's nails after it got near a cage. [A]
    - She sat on another squab, breaking his leg. [A]
    - **CW: VERY GORY PICTURES OF TWO AUTOSPIED BIRDS IN THIS BULLET POINT.**
        - She incorrectly vaccinated two squabs in combination to using trich medication, which resulted in massive organ failures and their deaths. [A]
    - **CW: VERY GORY PICTURES OF AN INJURED AND DYING BIRD IN ALL LINKS IN THIS BULLET POINT.**
        - Very early on in her tumblr history, but after at least a year of breeding pigeons and doves separately, she allowed a pigeon to maul one of her dove squabs. [A] Note the cute picture of the pigeon covered in blood! After taking the squab to the vet and getting stitches, the squabs organs prolapsed out of it upon her walking away for “five minutes”. [A]
        - To follow this note: doves and pigeons are not recommended to be left unsupervised, or to have much interactions - pigeons are much larger, much more aggressive, and as seen above, a lot more likely to kill doves. So Dani allowed one of her pigeons to sleep on her doves’ cage, one of which is a sickly albino. [A]
    - She caught one of her housebird’s heads in her vacuum cleaner. **[A]**
    - She dipped a bird in pesticides to remove lice, resulting in feathers that would not dry without assistance, and semi-severe chemical burns. [A] This happened twice with two separate birds, but **she’d previously noted the risk of dips compounding medical issues in her birds.. back in 2017. [A]**
    - Another housebird got in behind the couch, caught on her back, and suffocated to death. **[A]**
    - One bird became trapped between the feedbags and screen. Thankfully, this one was fine. [A]
    - The next bird to be trapped behind the feedbags was not fine. Jojo went missing on 3/1/21: **several days later, she stated she smelt death in the loft.** [A] but dismissed it as being the faeces from her hens. She discovered his body three months later, on 6/3/21, when it had already rotted and been infested by maggots [A] in an area that was accessible to other birds.
    - Her recommended methods for culling pigeons includes **saying to remove their heads with cooking shears,** and **to windmill them sufficiently in the air that their neck snaps.** Cervical dislocation is the most humane method of euthanising a bird at home: if one cannot use it, for some reason, the head needs to be removed in one motion. Kitchen shears are not generally the recommended option, due to their size and the force needed to remove the head entirely. It requires a steady hand, and upper arm strength, because the head would need to be removed in one motion.

    - And on the topic of inhumane treatment, one member of her server had a pigeon that needed surgery. **They proceeded to do said surgery at home, without anesthetizing the pigeon, describing it to other members and sharing pictures of the process. This is a copy of a log that includes pictures of an animal being actively tortured: please, please keep that in mind before you click.**
        - For the record: this is animal abuse, undeniably. There is no circumstance in which someone should perform operations on unaesthesized animal, there is no cause to ever record or photograph it, amputations are not performed like this, and this is horrific from top to fucking bottom, tanking the animals quality of life for no discernable reason. This is not how rehabilitators behave or treat animals, this is not how farms behave or treat animals, and it certainly is not how breeders should be treating them.
        - The member remained in the server afterwards, and the messages remained up.. until the Ramsey Loft *deleted their own server,* in response to people discussing the material contained within. **Dani left up a graphic, image-filled, detailed post on torturing a pigeon in her pigeon breeding server, and refused to remove it or the members involved with the act.**
- Dani's loft has pest problems. This is not unusual for many loft keepers, who have a variety of ways of removing pests and parasites. She does not follow the standard practices of placing down diatomaceous earth, getting a secondary bird species to consume pests, cleaning things more often or even just using pesticides - as she notes in this TikTok, [A] ***"I don't like using poison, so. When we disturb roaches doing this (cleaning), I generally try to crush them.. or at least, as many of them as I can get. The only thing I'll use poison on is fire ants, because fire ants absolutely will kill and eat my squeakers."***
    - Roaches are a known hazard to pigeon lofts that need to be removed and prevented. While any outdoor animal enclosure will always run a risk of pests, roaches actively present a problem in a loft - they can transfer harmful protozoa, but they also carry salmonella.. a pathogen that, as stated up top, ***caused the Ramsey Loft to lose all but one of her doves in the past.***
    - In addition, Dani notes that she only uses poison on fire ants, because they will kill her squabs. Fire ants have previously attacked her loft at points in the past, **[A]** and, unfortunately, despite that, she has deliberately fed them dead pigeons on her property, encouraging the colony's growth. **[A]**
- Due to severe inbreeding, two of her bird lineages possessed health problems and overall genetic issues. **She removed the most inbred of the line, [A] but is still breeding others from it**, despite fearing some members of it may be infertile. From the inbreeding? Surely not: maybe just bad luck. :)
    - Separate from that: Dani has been very explicit in the past on what mutations are dangerous for pigeons, and which are not. She stated at one point that:
        - *"The color that most completely fucks up columbids (aside from the aformentioned two homozygous lethals) is Albinism! True albino*

pigeons and doves are almost completely blind and prone to severly sunburned faces, legs, aaaand retinas. I specify "true albino" because there are several of ways to get white birds without albinism." (A)

- She has two birds that she noted as possessing albinism: David(A) and April (A).
- She has bred both of these birds. April produced two eggs during the latest pandemic, despite being inbred, over 15 years old, and blind. One was sterile, and the the other was allowed to hatch. (A)
    - In the above post, it was listed as a hatching accident. Dani herself claims in 8/25/21 that a poor quality egg ***"is why April wasn't allowed to hatch eggs even before I got out of breeding doves. [...] If there is not enough calcium getting to her ovaries to build a full shell, there isn't enough in the egg to build a full peep skeleton. If she were to hatch it, and the peep were to survive, feeding it would kill her."***
    - However, one can presume the accident was at April being over 15 years old, because in 2017, between July 25th and December 5th, they had laid nine times.. (A) despite, right at the start of this prolific breeding cycle, they had produced a dead squab. (A)
- David produced Lilly, who despite carrying albinism through his father, is now one of Dani's current studs. (A)

- The birds face calcium deficiencies and overall malnutrition, best evident in the current asper crisis her loft's facing - **asper impacts malnourished or immune deficient birds. While asper is horrific to deal with, if your birds are not compromised in some way beforehand, it is significantly harder for it to even gain a foothold.**
    - Also worth noting here is that Dani is constantly dealing with Trich in her loft. Trich - aka trichomoniasis - is also known as canker. It spreads through the birds' saliva and crop milk, and birds are contaminated through bedding, shared food, and shared water. Per the state government of Michigan, while the parasite has difficulty surviving outside of the body, they can survive at least 5 days on some grains, and anywhere from 20 minute to several hours in water.
        - **Content warning here:** the page from the state government of Michigan, somewhat inexplicably, has a picture of a dissected pigeon up top that has been infected by canker. **This** is the link to the page.
        - Per the state government of Michigan, *"nearly all pigeons and doves harbor the organism and can be a source of infection (in one case, 80-90% of adult pigeons were infected, but exhibited no clinical signs)."* This is a fact that's often repeated in pigeon-fancying communities - a great deal of birds will carry canker, but so long as their immune systems are strong and they are otherwise healthy, they may not show symptoms.
        - With that said, preventing recurrent cases of canker / trich is not generally hard. The parasites are primarily spread through **poor hygiene of the flock.** Feeders and water sources need to be disinfected regularly with 10% bleach. Any and all soiled litter, soiled perching materials, faeces

and fallen seed all need to be removed from the area, on a daily basis, and completely sterilised.
    - Stress is often one of the biggest factors, after hygiene, for trich infections. Overcrowded, distressed birds have a lowered immune response, and will be infected easily. Birds that are kept in a clean, hygienic environment, spaced out, with carriers removed from the population, do not.
- So: the recurring trich issues *and* the asper are both, unfortunately, representative of her flocks' poor diet. This isn't just a matter of seed. Pigeons require grit. [1] [2] [3] This is both insoluble grit (minerals, or bought commercially, that remain within the gizzard and break down seed shells, etc) and soluable grit (grit that breaks down through the act of digestion, and supplies calcium/other vitamins).
- The Ramsey Loft only gives oyster shell, a soluable form of grit. (A)
- As seen on the family tree below - she has had multiple birds suffer from calcium deficiencies, all the way back to 2017. (A) with calcium issues still occuring in birds (A) in 2021, four years later.
- But nutritional deficiencies are not surprising, because in the past, the Ramsey Loft was - instead of purchasing pellets or mixes dedicated to pigeons - purchasing wild bird seed and modifying it to give to her pigeons. **(A) (Warning on this post, as is the case with many, for mentioning bird injuries and a squab being murdered.)** This is not, in itself, necessarily a bad thing: an experienced breeder can manage the ratios needed for a flock of birds to maintain healthy nutrition and proper immune systems. **Dani herself, however, admits that her birds behave as if they are malnourished,** and the prevalence of asper in the flock, as well her many previous pandemics, underlines this.. **and the fact that her previous feed included primarily cracked corn, which is notorious as a risk for causing canker in pigeons, (A) does not inspire confidence that this was not the case in the past as well.**
- The Ramsey Loft is *now* feeding their birds with Versele-Laga Classic Pigeon Mix, which is sometimes used for racing lofts. This mix does not come with grit added, which lowers the digestibility of food, and while Dani appears to supplement the diet with at least mung beans and wild rice, **Dani argues that birds do not need and should not have vegetables, as they cannot digest them, and they are more capable of digesting meat.** (A) (Fish oil is not the same as fish meal, ftr: racing lofts feed their pigeons very, *very* diluted doses of fish oil specifically for the vitamin D boost, rather than the protein, as the food composites for racing already have a high protein value.)
- **For the record, pigeons having the ability to digest meat is not true:** while there is, for *some* reason, no specific sources discussing the ability of pigeons to eat meat, long-term keepers have discussed this in the past.
- And similarly, pigeons being **unable** to digest vegetables is not true at all, but thankfully, that *has* been researched. A variety of different sources disagree with her uniformly, even whereas they individually may disagree on things like grit.

        - Below are links to a pigeon rescue group, an animal preserve organisation, a pigeon racing guide and a domesticated animal hospital, all advocating feeding your bird vegetables. These places all have *very* different priorities in mind for these birds, and different standards of ideal health as a result - but all of them agree that vegetables are either tolerated by pigeons, *or actively needed.*
            - Palomacy: *Veggies or greens (3-4 times per week):* *for veggies, you can chop/mince up most anything that is bird safe: carrots, broccoli, snap peas, dandelion greens, kale cauliflower, lettuce, spinach (in small amounts), edamame, bell peppers, etc.*
            - Pigeonpedia: *The short answer to this question is yes, pigeons do eat vegetables, but there are preferences and limits. [...] It isn't recommended that a pigeon lives on a completely vegetable-based diet. Pigeons have evolved to be granivorous birds which means vegetables should supplement their expected diet, not the other way round.*
            - VCA Hospitals: *Finely chopped vegetables and greens, plus smaller amounts of fruit, should be offered as part of a pigeon's or dove's daily diet. Pale vegetables, with a high water composition (i.e., iceberg or head lettuce, celery) offer very little nutritional value and should not be offered. [...] Unlike hook-billed parrots, pigeons and doves have small beaks, so vegetables and fruits should be shred or cut up into tiny, manageable pieces. Fruits and vegetables should be offered in a separate dish from pellets and other foods. If your bird appears to develop a particular fancy for one food item, reduce its volume, or stop feeding it temporarily to promote the consumption of other foods.*
            - Coachella Valley Preserve: Pigeons are scavengers by nature and as such, they eat a variety of things that they find on the ground. They prefer to eat seeds and grains, but will also consume insects, worms, fruits, and vegetables if given the opportunity.
            - Racing Pigeon Sport: *Green leaves of cabbage and lettuce present vitamin A in considerable quantities as does cod liver oil. If pigeons are not fed any green in the loft you will often witness them picking at blades of grass to get it.*
    - The food issue is further compacted by the fact that the Ramsey Loft does not use feeders for their pigeons, and instead feeds them directly off of the ground. [A] This is not recommended or often done, because pigeons will eat where they shit, and you don't want your food being fouled by your fowls. Pigeons *will* eat soiled food without compunction, and even in the healthiest of birds, you do not want them reabsorbing the same toxins that their body excreted.
    - **The ammonia build-up in her loft has been sufficient to cause injuries to her and her birds. [A]**

- And speaking of the loft: foam insulation inside of lofts is not generally ideal, because it raises the humidity of the environment without proper ventilation.. and it also raises the temperature of the loft itself. While the ventilation was replaced by 2021, the Ramsey Loft has lost squabs to dehydration before, [A] and to hypothermia as well.

Again: none of that is normal.

People can take this post as an indicator of how you can prevent the issues she has faced with her birds, if nothing else - because almost all of this is preventable, and none of it needed to happen. The Ramsey Loft has been doing this for years - I do not anticipate any amount of public judgment over her frankly criminal level of animal neglect and abuse is going to deter her from continuing to run her loft, but I do hope that this will help those who thought that she was a credible example of how to raise pigeons, and have realised she is not.

In the name of transparency, I'm going to source every piece of criticism that I have. If people disagree with my consensus, then that's fine - I want everyone to have the full amount of information in front of them to judge this matter for themselves.

A friend went through and cataloged the birds she has publicly listed, her notes, and the breedings from each one.

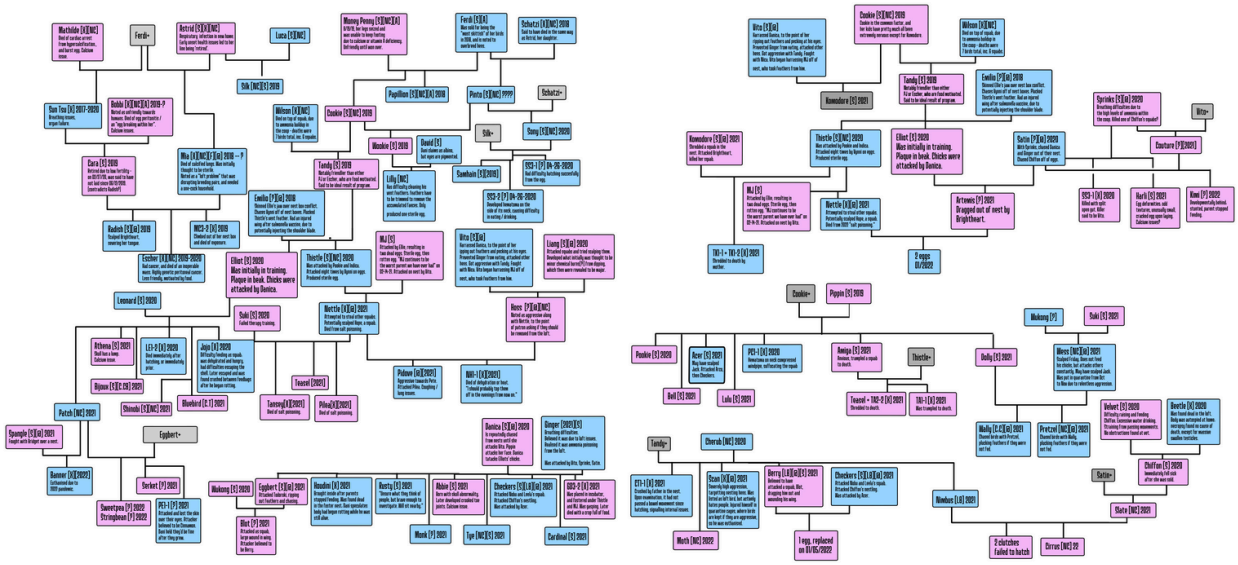
This can be found HERE, on a google spreadsheet, with sources attached as appropriate.

In addition to that, below is a link to a Google Docs file I have made, complete with table of contents, to document her methods, and my exact objections. Sections link to her own words and posts on this matter, and then to explanations from sites on where she is negligent.

The Ramsey Loft has been doing this for years - I do not anticipate judgement over her frankly criminal level of animal neglect and abuse is going to deter her from continuing to run her loft, but I do hope that this will help those who thought that she was a credible example of how to raise pigeons.

And as an aside to those who do not want to read a long-ass doc:

An easy example of her frank negligence in breeding can be seen in her bloodlines. The Ramsey Loft had two lineages, born of Ferdi and Sun Tsu separately, which produced squabs with health problems. She stated they were retiring the high content offspring in 2020, (A) but she did not retire the lines completely, and is still breeding them as of this year.



[Full-sized picture](#) | archive (https://archive.ph/wip/YgdNK)

This is not a list of every squab bred in these lines, but the majority have been noted, along with bird aggression in her therapy lines. Dani has formerly held that inbreeding - *separate* from the more standard line-breeding - is not a problem for birds, despite common knowledge in the larger community holding that it has a noted, negative impact on the offspring, but while she has stopped endorsing inbreeding, these lines have continued.. and health problems have continued with them, as can be seen by reading the notes copied under the birds names.

Even setting aside the issue of inbreeding, the Ramsey Loft's habit of breeding is frankly irresponsible. By her own words, the loft size grew to its current, unmanagable state, because she did not separate out birds, and she was simply raising eggs to be raising eggs, rather than breeding with predetermined homes in mind. But even aside from that, the pairings that she allows do not often serve a purpose. Ginger is a racer of unknown genetic lineage, [who Dani initially did not plan on breeding due to his "ammonia sensitivity",](#) ([A](#)) who was then bred to Danica, a Kormoner Tumbler. Of their squabs, two died due to unknown issues, one was born with a skull abnormality and developed crooked toe joints as an adult, and the others are bird aggressive.

One of these offspring, Checkers, was bred to Berry, one of the birds descended from Ferdi. Other birds from Berry's parents included a bird that had to be euthanised for his aggression, as well as a squab that died in the nest with bowel issues. Both Berry and Checkers have, in Dani's own notes, been listed as attacking squabs.

[Dani said in one of her posts](#), [(A)](#) in 2017:

> *Something every good breeder has to ask themselves about every single pairing is "What are my goals for this clutch?"*

Do the potential assets of this pair's offspring out weigh the combination of their potential faults?

Berry and Checkers are birds that come from two lineages of birds with a history of aggression, genetic issues, poor nest instincts, and a heavy disinterest towards people. The purpose of the Ramsey Loft is - when she is not rescuing birds to breed them into her program - to create a breed of therapy birds for human therapy.

Why were they allowed to breed?

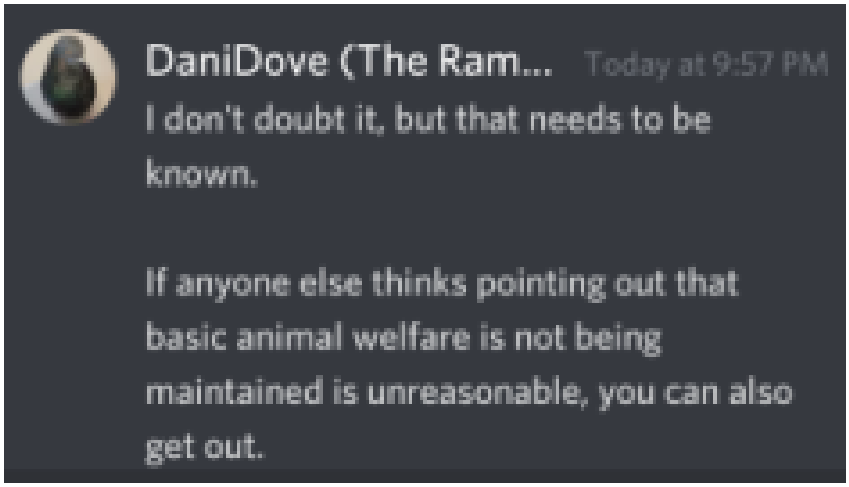
Tandy was said to be the ideal bird of the Ramsey Loft - but she was sold, and in her place, more and more aggressive birds have been continuously bred, many of which, like poor Scan, are not interested in people at *all.* Going through her birds, that's the question I kept asking, because while the Ramsey Loft says that they are attempting to create a therapy bird program, they have had remarkably few successes, and they have had a remarkable amount of dead or injured birds.

For the record: pigeons can live twenty to thirty years. Most lofts do not allow their birds to breed prior to their first full year alive. Please look at the dates these birds were hatched, when they started breeding, and the ages at which they were sold, if lucky, or they just died. **This is not normal aviary turnover, this is not normal pigeon lifespans, and this certainly is not responsible breeding.**

And that irresponsible breeding isn't limited to pigeons. In 2022, Dani's pet ringneck doves produced an egg and it was allowed to hatch. The dam is April, a 15+ geriatic dove who is blind, undersized, and inbred. The squab was severely undersized, and Dani suspects it has albinism.

She is planning on selling this dove as a companion animal.

Why did I waste all this time writing it? Because, as Dani herself said:



Here's the link to the full Google doc.

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SOURCES

For sources throughout this post, I will be linking to various discussions on Pigeons.biz, from various loft sites, and from research articles. The majority of my knowledge with regards to pigeons comes from a substantial amount of time in the community, and from a social circle that includes people who have owned pigeons for over thirty years: it's not easily sourcable as a result, but the pigeon fancier community on the whole is very well-established. Pigeons.biz especially has a community where discussions occur regularly and frequently, and many loft owners are not afraid of expressing their opinions when they differ from the majority.

If you click the sources for forum posts, you can see these are often part of long-term discussions of people discussing their methods, why they do these things, and how well they work. Within the community, there is a well known and long-established consensus on what is necessary for pigeon care. Pigeons are a well-studied species that we have had domesticated for thousands of years at this point. **The majority of issues that Ramsey Loft has faced with her birds, many of which have resulted in the death of many of her stock, are not typical to most flocks, because this information is easily accessible and readily available to anyone who is willing to look for it.**

And in addition to that, while I am personally digging up research articles for some of this, these articles are not necessary or even often regarded in terms of care-keeping. As I mentioned on my post of loft and quarantine criticism, pigeon keeping is very popular in low income areas, and in the global south. It is not a hobby that requires academic literacy, any large amount of education, or a shit ton of money. It is one that has been traditionally passed down from hobbyist to hobbyist, and as a result, the pigeon fancying community on the whole is very open and welcome to those new to the hobby

The issue with the neglect and abuse evident in Ramsey Loft is not that she is ignorant to what pigeons need to survive, after over four years of caring for these birds - it is that she has chosen not to follow these guidelines, and her pigeons have been suffering, and often dying, as a result of that negligence.

With that said: this is not a care guide and you should not use it as such. While I'll be listing my criticisms of Ramsey Loft and what the fuck she's doing, everyone who owns a pigeon should be doing their own, intensive research to figure out what you should do to care for your birds. Most areas have local clubs or racing groups: talk to them, attend the shows, read the forums, and connect with your community, because a large portion of the community has been breeding birds for longer than I have been alive, and on average, they are perfectly happy to help introduce you to the hobby, and get you started.

And an additional note: I am balls-to-the-wall dyslexic, so forgive any homophone swapping that may appear in this, or any possible issues with dates - I have made sure to include links to

the original post as well as the archived version, just to make sure that even if I jumble the numbers, the original information is still there to fact-check.

Because I had others read over this fucking wall of text, but things can still sometimes unfortunately slip through. Surprisingly: words.. hand.

OVERALL

0. Why are you doing this? This is kind of a dick move.

Let’s look at what Dani herself has said as an answer to this:

The Ramsey Loft

A care and advice blog specializing in all aspects of keeping, breeding, raising, training, and rescuing domestic Pigeons and Doves.
If you have an emergency or need a time sensitive answer, my phone number is 706-993-7452.
And if you like or have been in any way helped by what we do, please consider joining our Patreon:
https://www.patreon.com/TheRamseyLoft

Your pride is not more important than your animals

wheremyscalesslither:

> If someone tells you what you are doing can be done better, you should look into it.
>
> If multiple people are telling you, you need to look into it.
>
> Keeping animals changes when new information is found. A good keeper understands this and changes their practices to improve.
>
> It's OKAY to be wrong. It happens. It's NOT okay to continue being wrong for the sake of your ego or to prove something to others.

Bless you for this.
(via rebanndon)

Every piece of information used here is information that the Ramsey Loft offered up freely. Her notes are scattered between Patreon and Tumblr, but anyone can go through them and see - there are extensive links and archives to everything, because I am doing nothing more than cataloguing and explaining what she herself has stated.

If you find this information upsetting, or you think that it portrays Dani in a bad light, then you should take it up with her. Her treatment of her animals has been reprehensible, her animals have suffered for it, and maybe the most distressing part to me is that she has been doing this for *years,* and very few people are aware of this.

I can't fix the first two things, but I can at least fix the last.

1. Why is Dani now breeding pigeons, instead of doves?

You will see a number of mentions of doves throughout this post. Prior to breeding pigeons, Dani bred ringneck doves primarily.

I figured some things out this weekend, with some time away from home to get my head clear.

A HUGE part of my decision was the fact that, because I allow people to meet their birds in person, my house was considered a state governemt facility.

Which means that my ENTIRE house had to be kept to the standards of a state facility.

(Those of you dealing with depression know how hard it is to guarantee a clean house for more than a few days at a time.)

Failure would mean my license being stripped and my birds confiscated (not being valuable, that means destroyed.)

And, guys, I fucking *can't*.

I could *not* deal with something like that...

So, when I decided to let every one be dispersed, I dealt with the doves first, divvying them up between the three breeders that helped my program get to where it is.

And with that done, feeding and caring for the pigeons, it struck me that I still find joy, a GREAT deal of joy! In the pigeons.

It's the Doves that legally require me to be licensed.

Pigeons aren't under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture at all.

It's the cages I can't deal with.

The pigeons aren't happy living in them, but I need them to know for sure who the parents of any given clutch are...

But breed standards are arbitrary.

The people who love pigeons enough to want them as companions don't give a fuck what they look like, so long as they're sound and friendly...

So I'm turning the aviary into a free flight space, lining the wall with nest boxes, and have decided to just keep my pigeons for the rest of their lives and... let them be pigeons.

This is now my behavioral research facility.

I'll be installing more perches for them and covering the floor with sand, and basically making a pigeon wonderland.

They can mate up as they like.

Their children will still be available for adoption as house pets.

And with my specialization in friendly, docile breeds, maybe I WILL find the perfect combination for maximum sweetness!

(S)(A)

Dani now claims that she breeds birds for the sake of therapy animals.(A) In 2019, she claimed:

> *What would happen if I selectively bred the birds most comfortable around and interested in people?*
>
> *And gave them very basic training? Like responding to their name, loading eagerly into a carrier, comfortably wearing a harness, responding to a few simple commands like Step up…*
>
> *At the time, I was raising show pigeons.*

[S][A]

As you can see above, in the first quoted post from 2017, this was not her justification for switching from doves to pigeons at the actual point of transition. The Ramsey Loft switched from ringnecks to pigeons, not with the goal of creating a therapy animal, but because she believed that it is easier to maintain cleanliness with a number of pigeons, she wanted to be able to breed them freely, and because ***pigeon lofts are not regulated by the state.*** Doves require inspections by the state, who check the house and the loft for cleanliness, and check in on the birds.

In the past, she has failed this, because as she says above: *"A HUGE part of my decision was the fact that, because I allow people to meet their birds in person, my house was considered a state governemt[SP] facility. Which means that my ENTIRE house had to be kept to the standards of a state facility. (Those of you dealing with depression know how hard it is to guarantee a clean house for more than a few days at a time.)"* (S) *(A)*

While that's a troubling statement in itself to hear any breeder make, this becomes more upsetting in context. Dani has stated that the number of birds that she has now, as of 2021, was too many for her, and that played a large factor in her current pandemic situation. This is

phrased as an understandable accident: she had not been paying attention for a short while, and afterwards, the numbers had spiraled out of control, along with the situation, very rapidly.

However, all the way in 2017, when the above quoted post was created, she noted that she was having difficulty - in her words, that "the cages I can't deal with" led in part to her decision to switch species. That post was in March. Two months prior, **in January, she had over fifty birds in her aviary** (A) - a number high enough that, as noted in that post, resulted in injuries by her next update, both in that she splashed herself with the pesticides, and in that she caused eye irritation in at least one bird. (A) Ferdi's foot is mentioned as injured here - this is not followed up on, so it's up for grabs on if it was a congenital defect (hopefully not, given he is one of her stock birds to her unhealthiest lineage), bumblefoot, or damage that she caused by dipping over fifty birds in the same pot of pesticide.

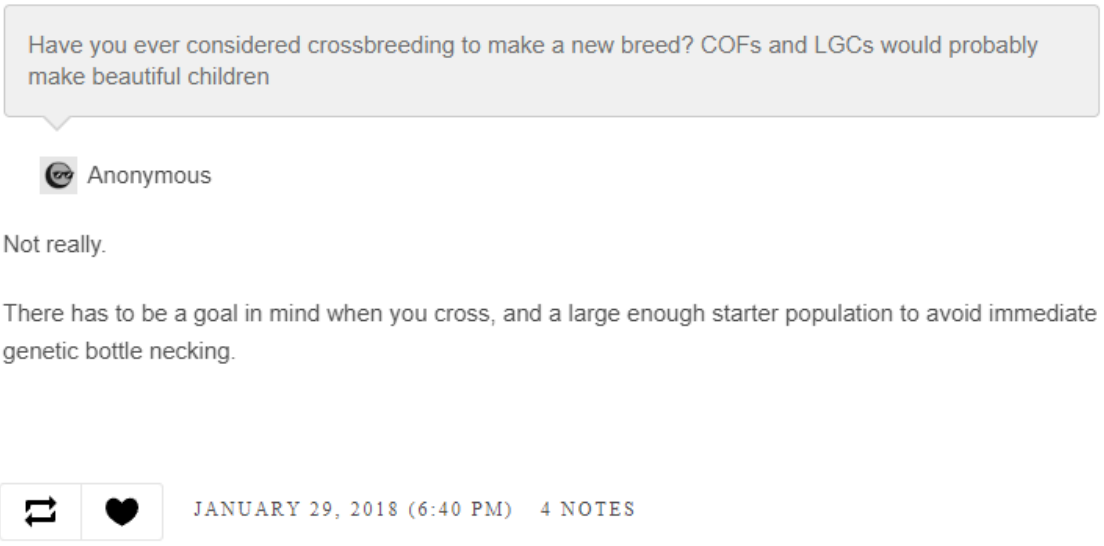
One year later, in 2018, she states:

> *Turns out my difficulty keeping up with the Aviary's sanitation is not all emotional.*
>
> *It's been getting to be consistently slower and more physically painful.*
>
> *Apparently, I damaged my left rotator cuff some time during or after cardiac rehab last year.*
>
> *I will not go into the why of it here, but I have an alarmingly high tolerance to pain. I genuinely can't gauge when something hurts badly enough to warrant attention, because I'm just so used to things hurting to varying degrees.*
>
> *The long and short of it is that I've lost about 75% of my left arm's range of motion and I physically can't keep up with my flock.*
>
> *I currently plan to keep 8 of them and rehome every one else, but it may turn out that 8 is more than I can tend to.*

(S) (A)

Dear readers, although this may surprise you, this did not turn out to be true.

January 2018, *after* she has transitioned from doves to pigeons, with plans to let them breed as freely as they like, an anonymous poster asked her about creating a new breed. At that time, while she was *actively planning* on allowing birds to breed freely, she stated:



(S) (A)

Please take a moment and look back to the family tree shown above as reference on how large of a starter population she supplied for her therapy breed.

2. Why Worry? or: The Ramsey Loft's Past Pandemics

I wouldn't bother to be such an anal bastard about all of this, if I had not realised that this is a recurring set of behaviours. Having your flock experience mass-death once is a tragedy. Having it occur twice is a sign that you should change your practices.

Having it occur multiple times, without any real changes to the environment save your constant purchase and "rescue" of new birds, is a sign that this is not an accident: **this is negligence and deliberate disregard for the health of your animals at best.**

The salmonella outbreaks occurred three times in 2017. The discovery of this pandemic in April included moments like:

- only discovering one of her birds, inside of a nest box, is dead when she checks for eggs (A)
- having another bird drop dead as she was cleaning their cage (A)
- when all but one of her symptomatic birds died, leaving him and a squab with infected sinuses still trying to recover, she left for Florida for a weekend to, in her words, relax with family. (A) and returned to find the last symptomatic bird dead, and the peep with infected sinuses near-dead (A)
- Dani spending almost a full month dragging out the care of said infected nostril'd squab: in her own words, "her current quality of life is terrible, and she's getting tired of fighting - if she doesn't pull through, I'm going to have to listen to her and stop dragging this out." (A)

- When the squab initially showed signs of a sinus infection, with seeds pulling into her nostrils, Dani removed them, and waited on taking her to the vet. When she did, she received a general antibiotic, and then continued on simply manually removing the seeds for over a month, while the bird became gradually more traumatised: (A) "That poor child is TERRIFIED of hands now! I don't know as she'll ever be ok with mine again…" (A)
- This wouldn't be notable, save for the fact the same occurrence would happen again with **Storm, an injured pigeon who's leg was shattered and was unlikely to survive an amputation, in 2022.** This link contains images of the birds' x-rays, and a bird rehabilitators take on why amputating the limb would have been a mistake.

Some features from May, when the next pandemic began:

- Dani realises that Ferdi is being infected by the bird above him in quarantine. (A)
    - Here's an image of the quarantine in 2017 (S), to the left, and the quarantine in 2021 (S), to the right.

    - There is no functional change.. except that *more* birds have been added in. If birds were being reinfected by those above them in 2017, when the cages were only stacked *four* high, then stacking them five high and cramming ill birds into them is a poor decision, to say the least.
    - Keep in mind: even back in 2017, she is aware of the reinfection risk of stacking the cages. **"I generally prefer not yo put my piceons on barred floors, but quarantine unfortunately requires putting sanitation above comfort. Poo falls through the floor bars and stays off the pigeon's feet and feathers."** (A)
    - So why have so many pigeons that you need to stack the quarantine cages on top of each other, knowing that the sick birds' faeces, food, and any other excrements will drop down onto the next bird?
- Separate from that, on the 18th of May, she notes that birds are once more showing the same symptoms as they had during the previous bout of salmonella. [A] The same day,

she says that several of her squabs have died, her pigeons are traumatised, and the dove squabs have never been handled. [A]

- She states she is keeping the dove squabs in the hospital cage: "The new dove babies never got to be handled. The hospital cage is all they've known." [A]
- On May 9th, she notes that Ferdi is being reinfected with worms from her quarantine cages. [A] By September 10th, she will say that Silver Lining is the only dove squab that survived the pandemic. [A]

One could argue that Dani is improving her loft. I personally do not think this is viable, because she has been experiencing these problems for several years now, and the same issues are largely still evident in her care.

In 2017, she had her quarantine cages stacked on top of each other, [A] resulting in the reinfection of at least one bird. In 2021, her quarantine cages are in a new location, but the same build.

In 2017, she was breeding birds that murdered their squabs. [A] In 2021, a bird murdered her first clutch, was bred again, and then, surprisingly, murdered the second. [A]

Dani has faced a high amount of loss that is the direct result of her own poor caretaking, but over the past five years, **nothing has changed with her birds.**

Birds suffered calcium issues due to her feeding practices in 2017. [A] Brunhilde was sickened by calcium deficiency after overlaying - Money Penny temporarily lost the use of her legs in 2019 from calcium deficiency [A] - and yet, in 2021, when two chicks from separate pairings turn up with domed skulls and one has a leg issue, which she notes is from calcium deficiency:

It forms this weird dome.

Here is their sibling, Eggbert for comparison.

(SOURCE) [A]

Just noticed why Abbie isn't as keen as Bert to go exploring.

Patron: "What causes that?"

It's often not enough calcium when the egg is laid.

These are the first Danica hatched successfully.

We'll have to see if she just didn't take enough of what was offered, or if she has absorption issues.

(SOURCE) [A]

She has never change her tune on grit somehow being unnecessary for her birds. [A]

If losing birds in the past hasn't changed her behaviour, why would it now? **Again: most lofts do not deal with this kind of recurring crisis.** For most people, when they experience a mass die-off in their birds, they take it as a sign they should change their behaviours.

Dani has experienced multiple. Her caretaking has remained the same. And it seems like after every pandemic, Dani makes noises about how she will change her behaviours, and work better to take care of her birds.

In 2017, she had over 50 birds, and was struggling to take care of them safely. [A] In 2018, she said that she is going to stop breeding doves, and move to free-flying pigeons, because she simply cannot handle maintaining the cages. [A] In 2021, she said that once more, she needed to cut down - her project was not producing results, and she needed to restrict herself to ten breeding pairs, if not eight. [A]

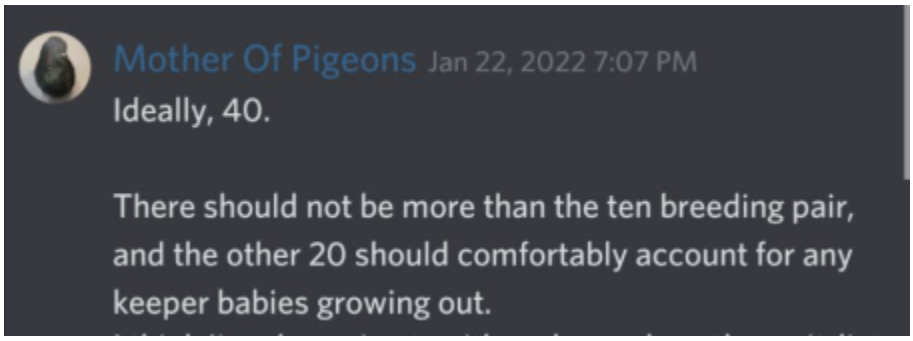
By March 2022, she had, by her own words, 74 fucking birds.

The Ramsey Loft is such a distressing thing because Dani has never changed her behaviours. Her birds were dying in 2017, her birds are dying in 2022, and the only thing that changes is what pigeons are hitting the floor now.

CLEANING

CLEANING: Number of Birds

Q: "I did want to ask- what's your cap for the loft? Like maximum number of birds you feel comfortable having in there?"



(sourced from a Discord screenshot)

A HUGE part of my decision was the fact that, because I allow people to meet their birds in person, my house was considered a state governemt facility.

Which means that my ENTIRE house had to be kept to the standards of a state facility.

(Those of you dealing with depression know how hard it is to guarantee a clean house for more than a few days at a time.)

Failure would mean my license being stripped and my birds confiscated (not being valuable, that means destroyed.)

And, guys, I fucking *can't*.

I could *not* deal with something like that...

(S)(A)

Dani keeps 60+ birds in a 10x10 room. This is unethical, but it's also harmful to the birds. You can read my full argument against that **here,** in my first post. She has said in the past that she needs to downgrade her number of birds, but, copy-pasted from above:

In 2017, she had over 50 birds, and was struggling to take care of them safely. [A] In 2018, she said that she is going to stop breeding doves, and move to free-flying pigeons, because she simply cannot handle maintaining the cages. [A] In 2021, she said that once more, she needed to cut down - her project was not producing results, and she needed to restrict herself to ten breeding pairs, if not eight. [A]

By March 2022, she had, by her own words, 74 fucking birds.

Dani will admit her loft is too large when sufficiently ovewhelmed, but she rarely acts on it, and every time her loft downsizes, it ends up swelling past the capacity of her loft once more.

CLEANING: Quarantine & Disease

2017 source.
2020 source.

This is a quick passover section. Quarantining sick birds away from the rest of the flock is a good practice in theory. However, Dani's setup is not, by any measure, ideal. She herself has noted, in 2017, that her cages allow the birds on top to contaminate those beneath. (A)

In addition to that, this cage setup is not ideal, because of the issues she is dealing with in her birds. The pandemic that wiped out her birds in 2017 was salmonella. Salmonella is often evident in birds who do not show any symptoms, and can cause long-term damage suddenly as a result. The best way to prevent salmonella is through good hygiene, and strict cleaning practices.

In both 2017 and 2021, the cages featured have excrement on them. The birds have no means of getting away from their own droppings, and they are stacked on top of each other. In 2021, the air filter and window are arguably the primary ventilation, but there is no real separation between the birds. **In birds, salmonella is transferred through droppings, saliva and food.** It can lie dormant in birds for several months, before the birds show symptoms through things like **sudden and rapid organ failure, [A]** which is why good hygiene for your birds is so vital. Like with *many* diseases with birds, they will go from showing minor symptoms to dead at a very fast pace.

Unfortunately, I will be noting below how the Ramsey Loft does not follow standard or even good cleaning hygiene with their birds.. and although early pictures of the loft does show birds with their own individual food bowls, birds are now fed directly on the ground, as a group, where their food is free to mix with droppings, saliva, and everything else that might be on the ground.

(S)

Such as the roaches, fire ants and grain weevils! But that's for the pest species section. :)

CLEANING: General Hygiene & Living Room Necropsies

To start off, here's a note about pigeons and hygiene, and their risk of transferring illnesses to humans.

> From a public health perspective, pigeon excreta have been documented as vectors for Chlamydia psittaci, Chlamydia abortus, Cryptococcus neoformans, Trichophyton gallinae, various microsporidia as well as Salmonella . Chlamydia psittaci, which causes psittacosis in humans, was detected in the faeces of most feral pigeon populations (Heddema et al. 2006; Magnino et al. 2009). Recent studies also isolated Chlamydia abortus, which causes abortion and foetal death in mammals, including humans (Sachse et al. 2012). Cryptococcus neoformans, is an opportunistic fungus that thrives on bird excrement (Hubalek 1975; Caicedo et al. 1999; Abegg et al. 2006; Cermeño et al. 2006). In humans, it mainly infects the lungs by inhalation of aerosolized basidiospores (Buchanan & Murphy 1998). In immunocompromised patients, it can cause fungal meningitis and encephalitis (Buchanan & Murphy 1998). Salmonellosis is common among pigeons (Granville 1973; Dutta et al. 2013) and transmission from pigeons to humans has been reported (Cena et al. 1989). Transmission of various microsporidia (parasitic fungi) has also been noted (Bart et al. 2008)
>
> **Dietary Habits of Urban Pigeons (Columba livia) and Implications of excreta pH–A Review (Spennemann, Watson 2017)** (link to PDF)

Pigeons are wonderful animals, but like any animal, they can be a vector of disease to humans. This can be from the dander they produce, which can cause things like pigeon fancier's lung to humans if there is not sufficient ventilation in the area, or else it can be from the parasites or diseases that they frequently carry. One of the most important things of being a pigeon fancier is that you need to make sure you are taking care of your birds, and keeping them in the best of health - because that, in turn, will keep you in the best of health.

Sick birds can cause sick humans. And when we are the ones keeping these animals as pets, who have taken them in and made them reliant upon us for their survival, making sure you stay healthy is important. And one way that people do this is through maintaining careful cleaning tactics, for both themselves and their birds.

The Ramsey Loft has an issue with cleaning. In 2017, Dani noted that the amount of cages her coop required was too much for her to take care of. [A] In 2018, she repeated this, saying, "I physically can't keep up with my flock." (A)

Since then, her flock has over doubled in size, and her cleaning standards have not grown to match. The easiest example is the event that drew so much attention to her on tumblr: when a seedbag ripped while she was bringing it to her birds, it spilled across the ground. Instead of cleaning it, she let the seeds sprout. When the sprouted seeds drowned, she did nothing to clean up the area, and as a result, it became festering with maggots. Maggots, much like flies, are vectors of disease that she then tracked into her coop, with her pigeons, leading to her initial hypothesis that *that* was the cause of several pigeons dying afterwards.

It's fine, though: eventually, she put down paving stones, so she could step over the seething mass of maggots instead.

Needless to say, that isn't typically an issue that most pigeon lofts have.

These are examples of how racing pigeon lofts are traditionally cleaned. **This first example is of a deep clean, which should occur at least once every year:** everything is removed from the loft, a pressure washer is used to scrub down all surfaces and remove all detritus from them, material is soaked, rinsed, dried, and then fumigated on top of it all. Another example can be found, which is less rigorous in nature, but involves using a torch burner. Both of these are suggestions for annual to monthly cleanses. However, even small coops advocate completely removing all soiled material, scraping everything down, and sweeping at least once a day. As seen by this YouTube video, it doesn't have to be extensive: this is a racing loft, which generally are less rigorous about their bird hygiene. His daily cleaning still involves scraping down his coop, sweeping it, cleaning off the water bowls, and despite the birds currently being present, he notes that he'll start letting them leave the loft before he cleans once their recall is sorted.

These are small coops, often used as shorthand for 4-8 birds. Dani has maintained at least twenty birds for the vast majority of her breeding experience.

Remember, this is for the health of the birds and the individuals who own them. Pigeons can and do transfer disease and bacteria to humans.. which makes things like Dani manually cleaning out her nest boxes with her bare hands troubling. [A] She states this because she otherwise cannot feel if the straw is dry or not - but the majority of breeders do not sift out bedding in this manner, because it can still allow disease to fester. Instead, they generally replace the entire thing, and clean it out every day to every other day.

I would argue instead that this is just a general sign of poor hygiene practices with the birds. By her own statement, her loft has roaches in it. [A] Roaches carry a number of diseases, including salmonella, which caused three nearly back to back pandemics among her birds in 2017, and caused her to lose all of her doves save one. They're dangerous for the birds, but they're also dangerous for people, if people are touching them.. and in the above tiktok, Dani mentions crushing them with her hands instead of leaving out poison, or one of the animal safe roach deterrents.

And to further the poor hygiene aspect: you are recommended to scrub your floors in coops with a deck brush, as the larger, more abrasive surface will scour off the most material, with the least amount of effort. Dani instead uses a sponge, (A) which unfortunately, are repositories of bacteria that are not even recommended much for kitchens at this point.

CONTENT WARNING OF DEAD BIRD FOR THE LINKS BELOW:

Dani's hygiene choices are not just concerning the aspect of cleaning the loft, however. Loft owners sometimes perform necropsies, or otherwise have to interact with injured or dead birds that may present a contamination risk to them, or the rest of their birds. It is not necessarily common, but it is a thing that is sometimes done. Just as with treating a human's wounds, however, it is for the best safety of all to do so with gloves on, in an easily sterilised environment, where any spillage of contaminants can easily be contained.

Dani performs necrospies with ungloved hands in her living room. [A] She livestreams this to her patreons, taking apart the body to show pigeon anatomy. She does this with presumably all of her birds, but she has done it at least one other time, with Rigby's necropsy.

In Rigby's necropsy, the bird was so full of worms that you can see them as a tangled mass across the relevant organs. [A] Her death in the first place is negligence, as Dani directly admits - the bird was showing signs of illness, and she did not take her in, despite multiple days of this. One could argue if this autopsy was necessary, but aside from that, when Dani did her necropsy of the bird, she did this in her living room.

Once more, the bird is so full of parasites that you can see them with your unassisted eye. This is not standard practice, it is not good hygiene, and once more, despite the bird literally containing masses of parasites within it, *she did it bare-handed.* **This is how you spread diseases between birds and humans.**

As an aside: Dani claims she deep-cleans once a month, on the first of every month.

Her deep-cleaning involves:
- Cleaning out from behind the nest boxes, to ensure "everything is very thoroughly cleaned"
- She then mucks the boxes, sifts the sand, and gets everyone fed.

From the beginning of this, this is not how you deep clean a loft. Every item should be removed from the loft, washed and sterilised, and allowed to dry. The loft needs to be fully aired out, and the boxes, walls, and floor should all be scrubbed. If you aren't placing down pesticides, then diatomaceous earth or other forms of deterrant should be placed. ***"Fire ants will absolutely kill my squeakers,"*** [A] Dani says in this tiktok, but once more, the roaches she dismisses can cause salmonella in your birds - a pathogen that destroyed her loft in the past - as well as worse.

CLEANING: Nest Boxes

Dani says herself that she does not clean her nest boxes until the squabs have hit a certain point of development.

> ***Cleaning a nest box with peeps is a good way to either get them abandoned by parents that think something must have eaten them if all the dirty straw was ripped out, or get them trampled by rival adults that think a freshly cleaned nest is free game.***
>
> ***So I don't clean out nest boxes until the peeps are on the floor.***
>
> ***Big peeps produce a LOT of poop!***

(S) (A)

This is not standard. The majority of lofts clean out nest boxes after the egg is hatched, because squabs produce a substantial amount of filth as they grow, especially when there's more than one nestling in the box.

> *"In my loft,I don't clean the nest until eggs hatch. Because pigeons never poop in the nest. After squabs are 5 days old,cleaning is needed every other day. If we use small nest bowl(not that small/tiny) then squabs tend to poop outside the bowl. If we use large nesting bowls then squabs make mess inside the bowl."*
>
> *"as DragonBoy was saying I clean nest bowls (or change them) after a week of the hatching as the squabs become bigger and poop everywhere. when they become even bigger like 3 weeks I put them in another bigger bowl preparing the hen to lay again."*
>
> *"If you want your babies and your older birds tame or tamer,clean your boxes everyday,or even twice a day...The birds get used to your hands and scraper…"*

The reason for cleaning the nest box daily is to prevent squab death. Because the Ramsey Loft does not clean out her nest boxes, one of her squabs died from hypothermia as a result of sitting in her own shit, and from the high ammonia that came from feeding negligence of the flock.

> ***Poop was noxious: Slimy and wet, and very high in ammonia because of the behavioral changes caused by the larger food dish that prevented the vast majority of the flock from being well enough fed.***
>
> ***[...]***
>
> ***Her actual cause of death was hypothermia from her wet, poopy feathers.***

(S) (A)

In her own words: **“We lost poor Lilith today to an issue that never dawned on me to expect.”** Again, cleaning out your shit-filled nest boxes is standard in the pigeon keeping community, and Dani has been breeding since *before 2016.* But the Ramsey Loft did not anticipate that you needed to clean out these boxes, to the point that she let a squab die of the cold, sitting in its own shit, with its crop full of food.

Similarly: most nest boxes are cleaned fully, including around them. The Ramsey Loft makes note of the fact, however:

> *The first cleaning day of the month is when I clean behind the nest boxes, so there will be absolutely nowhere I won’t have access to to treat*

(S) (A)

Despite other pigeon keepers preferences, showed in the post above, Dani does not scrape her nestboxes. She does not swap them out. She does not clean them. Instead, she likes to sort through the hay with her hands, in order to pull out the soiled hay, and replace it, leaving the box itself alone. The bedding is cleaned, and once a month, the space behind the nest boxes is cleaned, but when she says that she “cleans the nest,” this is what she is referring to - replacing soiled hay, and cleaning behind them once a month. (S) (A)

CLEANING: Ventilation & Ammonia Poisoning

The Ramsey Loft does not have a dedicated ventilation system built into her coop. This is not necessarily an issue, if the coop is aired out regularly, cleaned on the daily, and there is a standard amount of birds within the building. Keep in mind: pigeons not only produce ammonia in their droppings, with that rising when they are ill, but they are constantly producing dander from their feathers.

Breathing in ammonia causes damage in both human lungs and pigeons. However, humans that breathe in enough pigeon dander in large enough quantities can end up with ***pigeon fancier’s lung,*** a disease caused by over-exposure to the antigens on bird feathers. This inhibits breathing, damages your lungs, and can result in permanent, chronic lung issues if the disease is able to progress. Ventilation within an environment is not only to protect the birds, but it is to protect the keeper.

The Ramsey Loft’s ventilation *has* been an issue in the past. Dani mentions that the loft has issues with humidity and dust build-up: (A) remember, overexposure to pigeon dust will destroy your lungs. When asked about it in 2021, years after she had begun keeping pigeons, she stated:

> **Patron: "is it money holding you back about the ventilation? or just need time to do it"**

I physically can't. (and lack the mechanical/technical knowledge to wire and safely install.)

I need to both purchase the machinery and parts needed, and pay the guy who physically can, when he has the time.

(S) (A)

Worth noting here: she has had three salmonella outbreaks, at the very least, at this point, and one of the symptoms of salmonella is difficulty breathing. A good ventilation system to prevent breathing issues in your birds is always necessary, because when birds begin showing signs of illness - such as that from salmonella, or asper, the source of her *latest* pandemic - they are already likely to be on death's door. **The key to raising birds is to prevent problems before symptoms arrive, not after.**

Due to her ventilation issues within her shed, however, in May 2021, two of her birds, Sprinks and Ginger, began to show breathing problems. Other birds had shown issues prior to this, but not to the same extent. She removed Ginger, and when her lungs began showing damage, realise that the symptoms matched to ammonia poisoning. [A]

Her cousin stated, at this point, that (S):[A]

> Cousin: "i am installing a 160 cubic-feet-per-minute squirrel cage blower, for anyone who knows what that means."
>
> "the bird building is maybe 1000 cubic feet, so you could say that there will be a whole shed worth of outside air every 10 minutes or so, or that it should completely exchange the sheds air every ten minutes.."
>
> "also will have vents and cages to keep birds out of the blower-itself"
>
> Patron: "Agreeing with ------- and ----- here; if all signs point to their ailment being environmental, and that aspect of the environment is being remedied, then there's no reason to remove them."
>
> Sooo, my loft walls are just tin siding and foam..
>
> Yay, that makes them easier to work... Uuuuhhhh.... Boooo structural integrity...

The new ventilation did not help. **In October 2019, per Dani, she "lost almost every peep this round",** [A] because an issue with feeding the birds led to a massive ammonia buildup within

the space, enough to kill several different birds. In this time period, she stated that her birds were *scavenging their faeces from the sand* in order to find food, which not only causes malnutrition, spreads disease throughout the flock, and can expose them to disease.. but it also exposes them to more direct contact with the pest species that live inside of the loft.

Which leads us into:

CLEANING: Pest Species and Vermin

> *All the rain has lead the fire ants to find the loft.*
>
> *Right now, they are just combing the sand for poop and grain weevils.*
>
> *Gonna mix up some permethrine to treat with and go find the hills to bait.*

(S) (A)

A brief aside on pesticides: permethrin is often used for people's birds to prevent lice and other pest problems. At a low mix, diluted heavily with water - one tablespoon to two tablespoons per gallon of water - it can be relatively safe for your animals. However, like with any pesticide, you have to be very careful using it. Dani repeatedly states that it is harmless for birds, [A] and uses it to dip her birds with it.

There is some debate in the community over whether or not you should dip your birds - while spraying is normalised, actually dropping the bird in water gives them a much higher level of exposure than simply spritzing it across their wings. It isn't generally dangerous, but it can very easily become so, despite Dani's arguments that it is harmless, and only dangerous to mammals.

Unfortunately, that argument is wrong, and **her process of 'dipping' her birds to remove lice has resulted in at least two birds ending up with major chemical burns due to improper use of the solution.** (1) (2) (A, A) These were both unnecessary, and should not have happened. There is a reason most keepers spray their birds.

And now onto the pest issues by themselves.

Her loft has roaches. Roaches transfer salmonella and other pathogens to birds, as well as humans. She does not treat her loft for the roaches, or remove the standing food on the ground that attracts them: instead, she crushes them by hand when she notices them.

Her loft has issues with fire ants, [A] which **she has fed dead pigeons in the past.** [A] In addition to the fire ants problem, she has had a recurring problem with maggots. **When a pigeon fell behind the feedbags on her loft's porch and starved to death, she discovered it only after it begun festering with maggots.** [A] Her birds had full access to this area: after

all, in the previous link, she mentions Riddle has been caught behind the bags, and Nobu was also trapped behind them in the past. [A]

Her pigeons are constantly getting worms, and as of 01/03/2021, she has started worming them every other month, after a pigeon died of a substantial mass of worms in her body - a pigeon that Dani notes she *should* have taken to the vet, but chose not to. *(Source is **here**, [A] but **MASSIVE CONTENT WARNING** for a blow-by-blow photo post of her dissecting the bird, including pictures of the organ covered in parasites.)*

Dani argues this constant reinfestation is due to worms that exist naturally in her soil. While this can be true to an extent, most lofts, even in hot environments such as California, India and South Africa, do not need to worm their birds more than three times a year. If her birds were solely being infected by her soil, this would be unusual..

.. especially as there are much more overt reasons that her pigeons may be infected. For starters, Dani **does not toss food that has been infested by insects, and instead - "at most" - simply freezes it.** [A] This isn't necessarily a problem if it was moth larva alone, but Dani has stated that her loft has **grain weevils. Common knowledge holds that grain weevils are a vector for tapeworms,** and the term is often used as a synonym for most grain beetles, which are known for carrying it.

In addition to all of that: Dani's nest boxes are placed on top of each other, and her pigeons in quarantine have been established to re-infect those around them with worms, (A) and when birds show signs of worms, scraping the loft out of all bird faeces daily is one of the ways you prevent them from re-infecting themselves.

Some of the other most common ways of removing worms from your loft to prevent re-infection include torching the floors and walls, scraping + power-washing + disinfecting everything, placing down pesticides, or simply placing down diatomaceous earth.

Dani does none of these.

BREEDING & BEHAVIOUR OF THE BIRDS

BREEDING: Ethics and Failure to Adhere

The Ramsey Loft

A care and advice blog specializing in all aspects of keeping, breeding, raising, training, and rescuing domestic Pigeons and Doves.
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> Didn't you say that it's better to breed pedigree pigeons to avoid health problems. What does all of the pedigree stuff even mean.

Anonymous

A pedigree is an animals family history.

It's important in dogs and Cats because the AKC and TICA keep a DNA registry through which individuals are tracked.

Pigeons have no such detailed management at present, but the more of its family history you know, the better informed your pairing decisions will be.

Mine are hideous (Eyebleedy, hand worked format) But record parents, grand parents, ect, as many generations back as I know them and include medical records.

So you could ask me anything about any bird I've raised and use its ancestry and their medical history to make an informed decision of whether or not that bird is healthy enough to breed from a genetic stand point and who to pair it with, if it is, to get the color, pattern, or feather type you want.

MAY 18, 2017 (10:07 AM) 10 NOTES

(S) (A)

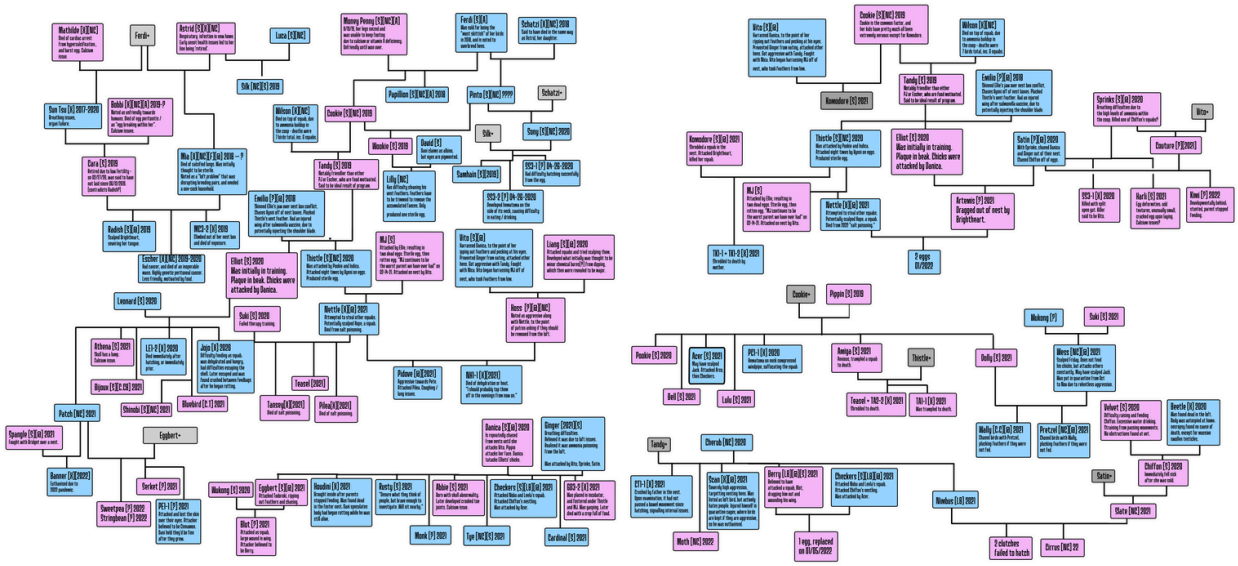
Separate from everything else, Dani is not a responsible breeder.

She lets her pigeons breed freely among themselves, choosing their own mates, even when that leads to incest. She does not select for temperament in how her pigeons breed, or even for health - birds that have shown medical problems are not excluded from her breeding program, and even when her excessive amount of inbreeding began causing serious health problems in her bloodlines, she removed the most inbred of birds and kept the rest.

Dani has defended herself in the past over criticism by stating she is only six generations into her project. [A] But she has been breeding pigeons since 2017, and as shown above in the overall section, her project has always been based around letting her birds breed freely among themselves. While she compares her project to those of service dog breeders, stating “[the parents of service dogs] were selected for traits conducive to the type of service the puppy is being trained to perform”, that is not the method she uses.

She obsfucates with constant comparison to other breeding projects, while letting her birds freely interbreed with any and all other birds within her coops. She does not remove aggressive birds from her coop. She does not prevent squabkillers from reproducing, or birds who dislike humans, or even those who show signs of medical issues.

An easy example of her frank negligence in breeding can be seen in her bloodlines. The Ramsey Loft had two lineages, born of Ferdi and Sun Tsu separately, which produced squabs with health problems. She stated they were retiring the high content offspring in 2020. (A) but she did not retire the lines completely, and is still breeding them as of this year.



Full-sized picture | archive (https://archive.ph/wip/YgdNK)

This is not a full pedigree of every bird within these bloodlines, but I have caught as many as I could fit into one chart without making it completely illegible. The recurring question I had, upon making this chart, is: why were these birds allowed to breed? Why did she hatch these eggs?

Because, as she says herself, she keeps the first egg of every new “blend” of bird. [A]

This is not a breeding project that can be compared to service dogs. I would hesitate to say there is a breeding project it *could* be compared to, save for the cultivation of, say, feral cats.

One of the issues with this “breeding project” is that, while Dani has noted how pedigrees are useful, the free-breeding nature of her coop means that she has a recurring issue of mystery eggs with unknown parents. A quick but not at *all* extensive example:

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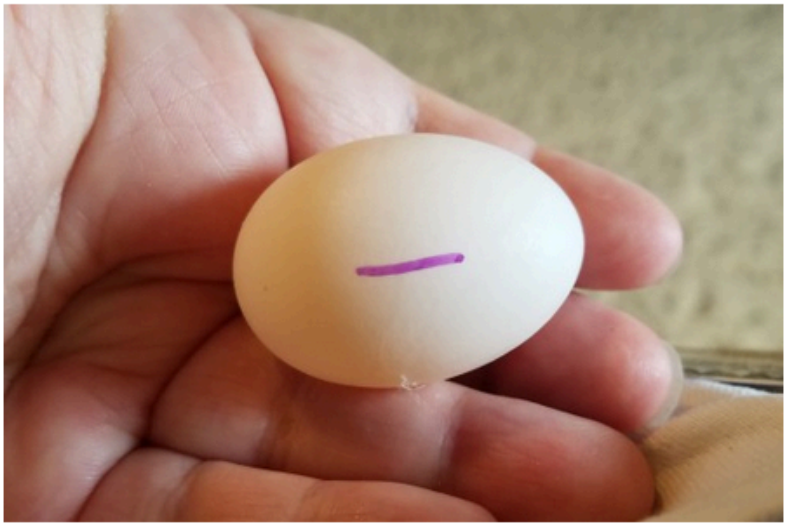
?P?-1



Papillion laid me another mystery egg!

JULY 6, 2019 (2:14 PM) 12 NOTES

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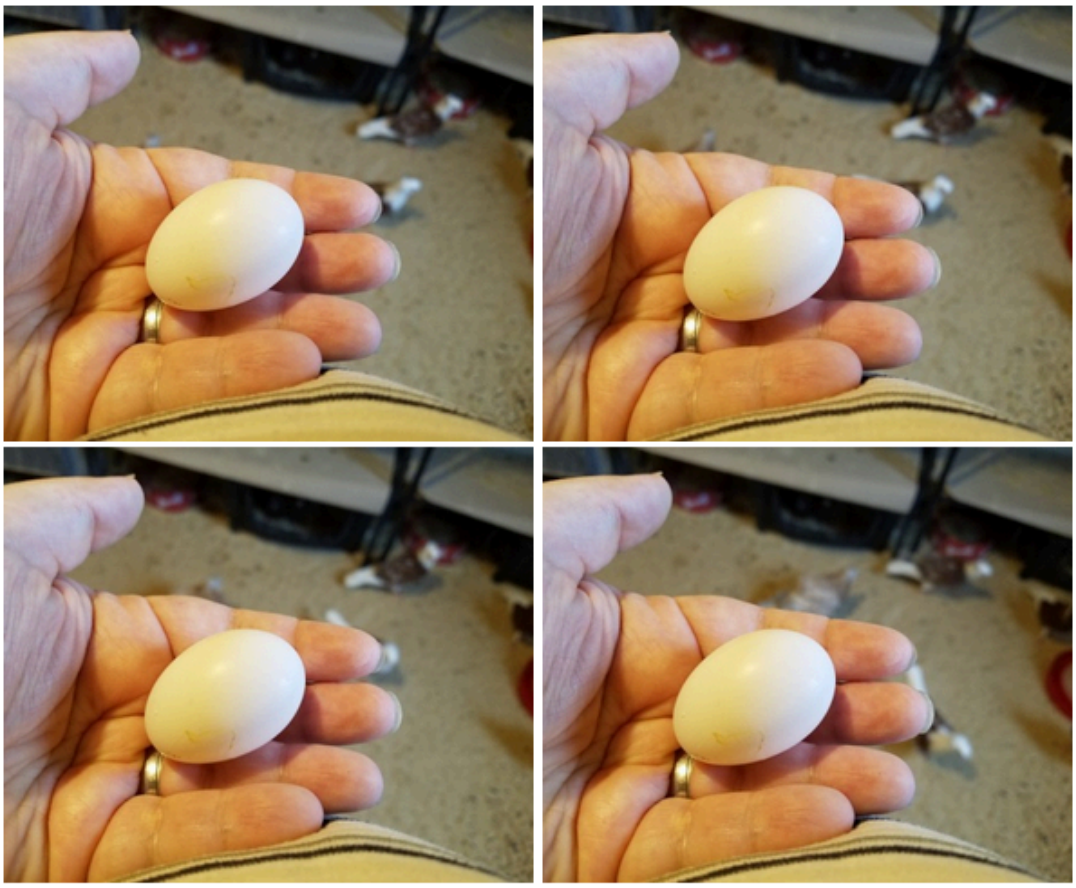


Congrats to Penny on her new mystery clutch!

She's been seen with Emillio, Petunia, Luca, AND Bram!

Who even knows who got her, if she was fertilized!

We'll see on the 11th if they are fertile.

DECEMBER 2, 2018 (1:40 PM) 41 NOTES

theramseyloft Follow

Dec 3, 2018

Aaaaaand speaking of mystery eggs...

Too small to be either Charybdis or Gwen's...

Preeeeetty sure Schatzi laid this one. >v<

13 notes

theramseyloft Follow

Dec 31, 2018

Happy 3 weeks to Yun's little mystery child, who is definitively Luca's daughter!

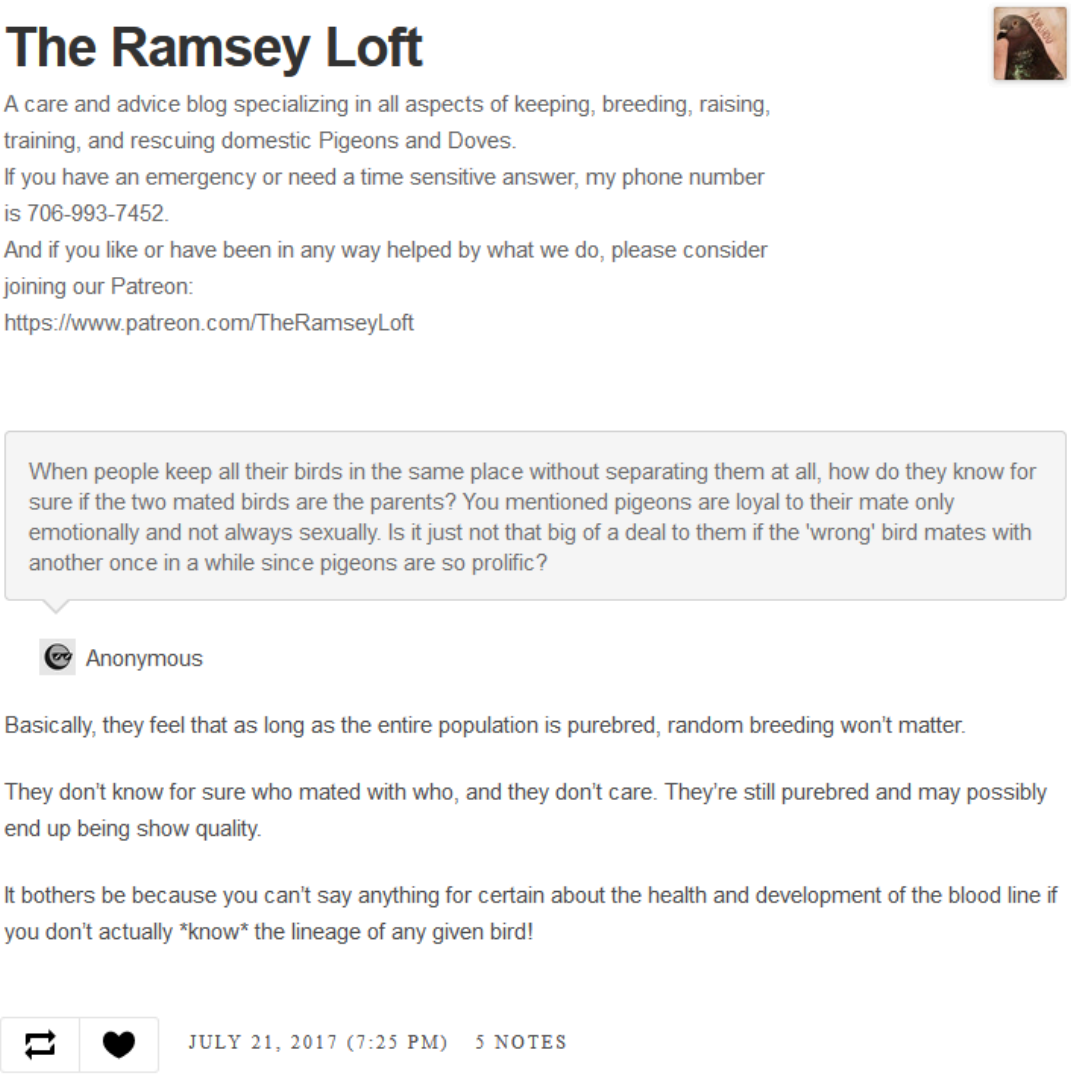
That answers why this peep had Ash coloring and a henny butt!

I'll go into a genetics post for her after I correct her records.

54 notes

How can you vet for a birds' health if you don't know where they came from? How can you vet their temperament, or literally anything else? Dani is trying to sell companion animals, with good health and a set temperament, but how can you produce those traits - *genetically inherited traits* - if you aren't keeping track of which egg comes from who? How can one maintain the responsibility of guaranteeing a healthy animal, if you can't even guarantee parentage?

These are concerns that Dani herself has expressed in the past.



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When people keep all their birds in the same place without separating them at all, how do they know for sure if the two mated birds are the parents? You mentioned pigeons are loyal to their mate only emotionally and not always sexually. Is it just not that big of a deal to them if the 'wrong' bird mates with another once in a while since pigeons are so prolific?

Anonymous

Basically, they feel that as long as the entire population is purebred, random breeding won't matter.

They don't know for sure who mated with who, and they don't care. They're still purebred and may possibly end up being show quality.

It bothers be because you can't say anything for certain about the health and development of the blood line if you don't actually *know* the lineage of any given bird!

JULY 21, 2017 (7:25 PM) 5 NOTES

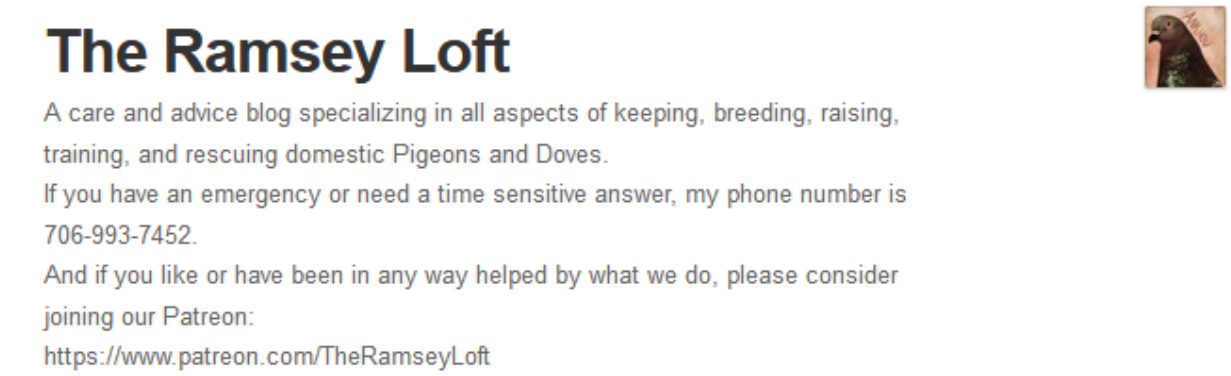
(S) (A)

The answer is: Dani does not maintain the responsibility of a healthy animal, or the responsibility of much else involved with breeding. Since 2013, she has let her birds produce eggs before there are homes lined up for them- [A] a practice that has continued. [A] and

resulted in her latter boom in her coops' population. She does not hatch control her eggs, resulting in things like her birds breeding even during her 2017 salmonella outbreak, [A] an "eggsplosion" during 2019, [A] and the incredibly high number of birds she has now.

Which leads us into:

BREEDING & BEHAVIOUR: Bad Stock & Aggression



(S) (A)

Dani defines a rescue as "any bird who should not be bred for what ever reason". Unfortunately, this is a definition she does not follow. Dani frequently breeds her rescues. In 2016, when she had several doves given over to her as rescues, she promptly sorted them on who she wanted to breed:

- "Ash and Violet are rescue doves 5 and 6. If they pass their post quarantine evaluation, I'll keep a silky homozygous tangerine daughter." [A]
- "Rescue doves 3 and 4 of 14 may be staying a while. If they pass their post quarantine evaluation, I'll give them a nest box and keep back a silky daughter for my pied project." [A]
- "Mooki and his mate are rescue doves 1 and 2 out of 14." [A]
    - 12/17/2017: "Congratulations to Archimedes and Mooki on the beginning of their third clutch!" [A]

This is not limited to doves. When Dani received a young pigeon from a rehab facility, Pippin, [A] she immediately begin breeding him at 6 months old. His first squab produced died almost

immediately of a hematoma that constricted her breathing. [A] This did not stop Dani from breeding him many times afterwards. [A]

This is pretty characteristic of how she treats rescues in general. But as noted above, this is a troubling behaviour, because feral pigeons and rescued pigeons do not have pedigrees on average. There is no real way of telling what genetic disorders or proclivities they may have inherited, or what they may show over time. Even the background of rescued pigeons can be up for grabs - some may have bands that explain what loft they came from, and some may have phenotypes that make their heritage more clear, but their health is a grab-bag.

Unfortunately, the genetic mystery inherent to breeding ferals or rescues is not one that particularly bothers Dani. She frequently allows eggs from birds that she has said that she should not breed, and will not breed, to hatch.

In 2017, she stated that she decided against breeding her Lucerne Gold Collars. [A] The two birds she had purchased for the project were, in her own words, less likely to improve their breed than they were to degrade it. She stated that she was willing to sell the two birds separately, something she very rarely did, because she felt that breeding them together would be unethical.

When she sold them and discovered an egg had been left behind, she hatched it.[A] The squab was hatched on 10-10-2017. It died on 10-13-2017, due to a neck deformity leaving it unable to be safely fed. [A] She stated that: “SO glad those birds both went to be pets! That is NEVER a thing I want to go though or have another peep suffer though again!” Keep in mind, this is ***after*** she had already decided the two birds should not be bred, that they would degrade their breed to be bred, and that allowing them to breed would be unethical.

This is a recurring theme with Dani. **April** is a geriatic dove that she owns as a pet, who has albinism, a disorder that Dani has noted as negative. On the topic of April breeding, she stated:

> *Ringneck Doves are legally considered Cage Birds in Ga, and can only be sold twice a year with out a license.*
>
> *By which I mean, you can either only hatch two clutches a year, or sell everything you have bred on two specific dates.*
>
> *That’s only part of the reason I try so hard to keep Gordon and April so strictly hatch controlled.*
>
> *I **never** want to let eggs hatch from this pair!*
>
> *April is over 15 years old, inbred to shit, blind, and detrimentally small.*

This was on 03-08-21, after April had managed to lay two eggs before Dani had noticed. One was sterile, but the egg was fertilised, and ended up hatching out.

> *Eggs alone are hard enough on her that I am in no hurry to remove her fakes.*
>
> *There was a second egg, but I am sad to be relieved to say that it didn't succeed in hatching.*
>
> *April could not have survived raising two, and as it is, Snowdrop is SO tiny…*
>
> *Thankfully, they are as healthy as their genes will allow and quite tractable, thanks to Gordon's sweet temperament.*

In the above post, it was listed as a hatching accident. Dani herself claims in 8/25/21 that a poor quality egg *"is why April wasn't allowed to hatch eggs even before I got out of breeding doves. [...] If there is not enough calcium getting to her ovaries to build a full shell, there isn't enough in the egg to build a full peep skeleton. If she were to hatch it, and the peep were to survive, feeding it would kill her."*

However, it's not really clear when Dani classifies herself as having gotten out of breeding doves, because April has had nine clutches in the past, including one with a dead squab. [A] That sounds like a large number of eggs for one dove to hatch, but others in Dani's loft have been bred significantly more. At one point, when selling her doves, she said that one had produced 19 clutches, [A] and another had produced 29. [A]

Dani does not give her birds insoluble calcium. Her birds have shown symptoms of calcium deficiency since she first began posting on tumblr, including a bird effectively laying herself to death by producing too many eggs, with too little calcium in her body.

(S) (A)

One would assume, given her past in producing egg after egg, and her past with birds suffering from calcium issue, that she would hatch control her hens to help prevent this issue from recurring, or she would give them insoluble grit to help further process their food, and gain the necessary nutrition from that.

Unfortunately, Dani has not done either of those, and seems unlikely to do so in the future.

When one of her birds has produced three deformed eggs, which she notes are a clear sign of calcium deficiency, [A] and Dani's response is: *"I should* ***probably*** *take her off the [breeding] roster",* despite the fact she has literally had a hen die of this.

Genetic Issues

Dani has no issue breeding birds that show signs of genetic issues, and has done so repeatedly since she began breeding birds. With her dove, April, whom she eventually would claim would die of trying to produce an egg and feed the resulting peep, she bred her nine times in the past, including one with a dead squab, [A] and would allow an egg from her to hatch in 2022.

Ferdi's line has a number of health issues, including hematomas that appeared in two different sets of squabs after hatching and resulted in the death of both. [1] [2] [A, A] This line has

included cancer, calcification of organs, organ failure, high aggression, and a number of other issues - but, as will be detailed in the inbreeding section, she is still breeding this line.

With Luca, whom she realised early on had structural sinus issues, [A] she would continue from that realisation to breed him repeatedly into her lines. [A]

Lilly is the offspring of David, a bird that she listed as being an albino. [A] Dani has noted in the past that albinism is one of the disorders that adversely impacts pigeons, [A] and yet Lilly is now a stud cock.. despite the fact he has issues cleaning his own vent, resulting in buildup of excrement on it that has to be manually cleaned. [A]

Another example of irresponsible breeding is evident in Angel's bloodline.

Angel is the son of Zephyr, and Valentine. Zephyr is from outside of Dani's bloodlines, and a utility king with a very high amount of aggression, and increasing blindness in both eyes.

Zephyr 7/6/21
July Update
Utility King
Recessive White Cock (Ash red t-pattern, het for blue)
Cataracts in both eyes. The left is more advanced.
Going increasingly blind, so he will need to be an indoor bird.
Extremely bird aggressive
Especially dangerous to smaller breeds.
Could be happy with a single hen of similar size
Docile, but shy towards humans.
$20

JULY 19, 2021 (10:38 AM) 34 NOTES

Zephyr was bred to Valentine, the product of Brams and Cheeks, two residents bird, breeding.

2 YEARS AGO
73 NOTES

Valentine 2/14/20
1 Year Old
Voorburg Shield Cropper x Frillback/OGO hen
Dirty Ash Red Bald Head
Sired by Bram out of Cheeks 2/14/19
Bred by The Ramsey Loft
Vaccinated 1/29/20 for Paratyphoid/Salmonella

Meanwhile, Cheeks is the product of Cooper and Astrid. Astrid is the bird that died at 4/14/20, and many of her offspring have shown health issues.

Now, you might say, all of these birds were bred prior to showing their issues, and that would be a true enough statement in most cases. However, Angel has sired eggs in the loft, as recently as 2021, despite his aggression, Zephyr's blindness, and Astrid - who's bloodline has had persistent issues with their health - being his grandmother.

Imp 8/23/21
12 Weeks Old
UK-VSC-FB-OGO x COF-RH-FB-GH
Blue T-check shield
Sired by Angel out of Leela 5/31/21
Bred by The Ramsey Loft
Keeper
PMV and Paratyphoid boosters administered 9/2/21

And his children are being bred in turn.

12/28/21

Hope 12/28/21
10 Weeks Old
UK/FB/VSC/OGO/COF/RH/GH x DHF/RT
Pied Grizzle Khaki T-Pattern hen
Sired by Imp out of Brightheart 10/19/21
Bred by The Ramsey Loft
Keeper
PMV and Paratyphoid boosters administered 12/21/21

In the past, Dani has spoken about how some breeds have more issues than others. Modenas are one of the breeds she had discussed:

4 YEARS AGO

5 NOTES

> Does the modena breed's chicken-like body shape affect the pigeon's health in any way?

rotifers

Their back is bent kinda u-shaped and they are REALLY heavy for their size, which makes flight kinda difficult.

Dunno how it effects their health long term, but they are infamously pugnatious and bad tempered.

May be pain or stress related, or just the temperament bred into them. I can really only speculate.

(S) (A)

> *Modena: Notoriously bad tempered and aggressive! DO NOT like interaction!*
>
> *(S) (A)*

When discussing if there are any round pigeon breeds that are healthy:

Here is a Modena.

The body is shortened, the spine is bent in a U, it's neck is angled back, head enlarged, beak shortened, legs thickened, and just a TON of meat has been added to the breast.

Its tailbone is level with the base of its neck.

This bird physically cannot get off the ground.
It's too heavy, its wings are too short, and that are both shaped and set wrong for flight to be attainable beyond exhausting, frantic flutter that might get it about three feet higher than it was for about 3-5 seconds.

And is famous for its "pugnacious" temper, often referred to as "The Rottweiler of the Pigeon World".

(S) (A)

You may see a repeated theme in these posts of discussing how physically unpleasant that Dani imagines these birds' existences are. In one of her latter posts, she will be more explicit in stating that she thinks they are in pain:

Look how far back the Modena's head sits on it's back.

How exaggerated its chest is.

The U-shaped bend in its spine that points its tail up.

Its completely straight legs, lacking the bend at the ankle.

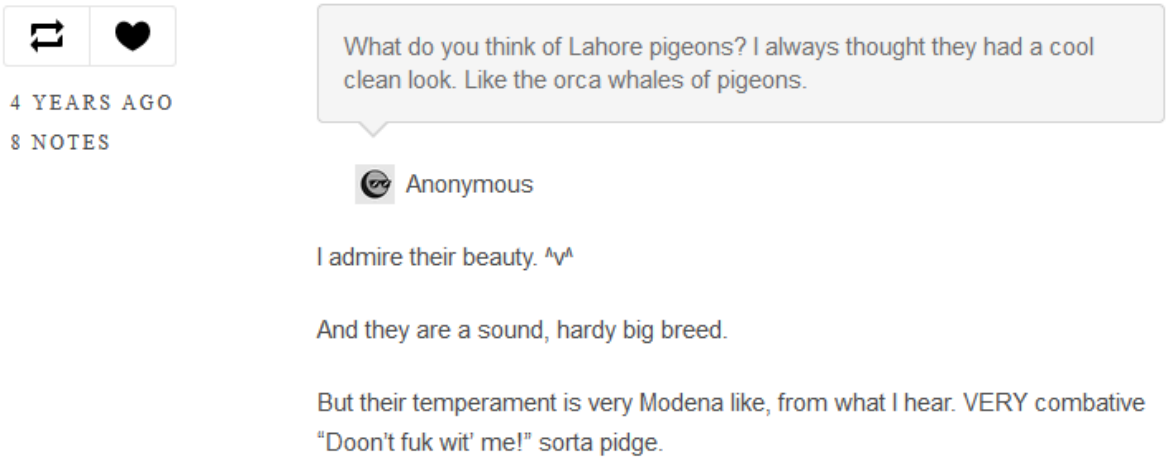
Being a five foot, six inch tall woman who wears a size H bra and had severe enough scoliosis to need rods in my spine when I was 13 years old: I am INTIMATELY familiar with the staggering pain of a misshapen spine combined with an exaggerated chest!

On top of that, this squat breed is HEAVY.

(S) (A)

In fact, Dani's opinions on these birds has been strong enough that she dedicated an entire post to discussing the health problems and difficulties inherent to the breed. (A)

On Lahores, a similar breed:



In 2019, she would receive two Lahore/Modena mixes, and begin breeding them into her overall stock - including to Giant Homers, to make the birds larger. Both of her Lahore/Modena crosses were highly aggressive, and spent a great deal of time attacking other birds. When asked about this, Dani no longer stated that Modenas are inherently bad-tempered, a trait that she had previously speculated was caused by the pain that their breed standards caused.

Instead, she stated that this is perfectly normal pigeon aggression, even after one of her modenas ripped off the nostril of a smaller bird.

Which leads us to:

Aggression in her Birds

Dani claims she is breeding for companion pigeons that will enjoy people, and want to actively be involved with them. However, many of her birds that have been bred repeatedly do not fit that temperament. Tandy, who was described as the epitome of the project, produced squabs and then was sold. [A]

However, Papillon, who was bred over six times, is noted as being **"independent and shy, but strongly treat motivated, taking safflower seeds easily from the hand and occasionally sitting on people's heads or shoulders even with out them."** [A]

And Mia is bird-aggressive, has to be kept away from other cocks, and was bred multiple times. [A]

And Ferdi, one of her foundation birds, was noted to be one of the most skittish of the cocks. [A] His children are high-strung. [A] They tend to be independent. [A] *Why* was he made one of the foundation breeds? Luxie is noted as being one of the most skittish hens in the loft. [A] but Dani still chooses to breed her into her lines, despite a high propensity towards skittishness and human apathy already present in her loft.

For someone who is trying to breed healthy, friendly birds, she is allowing an interesting variety of asocial birds to produce eggs and form the genetic foundation of her breed.

But anxiety and skittishness is not the only trait that Dani has bred into her pigeons. Dani's flock is highly aggressive, to a noteworthy degree. Part of this is undoubtedly due to crowding: Dani has dozens of birds in a 10x10 space, where the nest boxes are left open and the pigeons have very little room to retreat from one another, and where they constantly are having to compete for resources like nest boxes, food, water and mates. It would be remarkable to find any birds that wouldn't be slightly more aggressive in that environment.

What is also remarkable is the amount of violence her birds regularly engage in against one another, and specifically against squabs. **The majority of lofts would have removed the aggressive birds, if not euthanised them after they began killing squabs.** Unfortunately for her birds, however, Dani did not initially believe that aggression is a trait that can be genetically passed down outside of mammals. **This is not, for the record, true.**

To my knowledge, the physical disease of the brain that is Genetic Aggression only afflicts mammals.

Severe Aggression in birds and non-mamalian vertibrates is exclusively hormonal or fearful.

Hormonal aggression will pass on its own, and is why parrot cages are set up so that minimal physical contact can be made duting maintainence if necessary.

Fearful aggression is triggered by as specific event or behavior and can be trained out by a patient handler that knows what they're doing.

A breeder should be well enough versed in their species' behaviors to differentiate between those three types of aggression and handle them accordingly.

If a breeder claims to have euthanized an animal suffering Genetic Aggression, they should also have sterilized or separated the parents.

If they are still breeding from that pair, either the disease is going to crop right back up, or they are BSing you and just didn't want to sterilize or bother with training.

Aggression is a catch-all term, but there are four distinct causes that breeders and keepers should all be aware of.

Only Genetic Aggression is grounds for culling by Euthanasia.

(Source, A - Dani also argues in this post that chow-chows/German shepherd mixes, a highly specific demographic, are more aggressive because their skulls stop growing before their brains do. This is not, as far as I've ever heard, true either - they're just badly bred on average in the United States, by breeders who, much like Dani, do not select for temperament *or* health.)

Dani states here that aggression is only genetic with mammals, mind you..

Is it possible to train a bird-aggressive pigeon to stop harassing other birds, as an alternative to separating them, or would that be a dangerous exercise in futility?

Anonymous

Dangerous exercise in futility pretty well sums that up.

ESPECIALLY if he is aggressive towards another species of bird or a smaller breed of pigeon.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 (9:30 PM) 6 NOTES

(S) (A)

But she also noted back in 2017 that trying to train a bird-aggressive pigeon to stop attacking others *was* considered futile.

And despite the fact that she believes aggression is only genetic with mammals, Dani, in the past, has stated that some pigeon breeds are more inherently aggressive than others. (How are they more aggressive, if it isn't genetic? She doesn't explain.) Lahores and modenas, both larger breeds, have been specifically noted - multiple times - over the years to have particularly bad tempers, to a degree that she did not want to breed them.

She would eventually purchase Lahore/Modena crosses. When asked about their high levels of aggression towards the other birds, she stated:

> **There is no aberration in Sissy and Dudley's aggression level.**
>
> **Their breeder, thinking she was saving them from the potential fatality of fights between chickens and parrots she was used to, exacerbated the issue by never letting them finish a fight between each other.**
>
> **Dudley and Sissy do not have bad traits to pass on. They are simply products of their environment and mistaken up bringing.**
>
> **If their offspring hatch in my flock, they will get the same hazing when they wean as every one else, and they will grow up with healthy rivalries.**
>
> **They are likely to be a little more aggressive than the norm, because that is both a modena and lahore trait, but it should also be balanced out by Agnes docility and Val's excessive friendliness.**
>
> **My concern is Dudley and Sissy themselves causing more injury in the meantime.**

(S) (A)

Dudley and Sissy attacking the other birds is one of the few times that Dani does not post graphic pictures of birds injuries. The aggression that she states is perfectly standard from them, however, includes:

- Sissy ripped one of Luca's nostrils free of his beak. Luca has structural deformities in his nose that lead to difficulty clearing his sinuses, which Dani knew. (A) How bad was the damage from this? We don't actually know, because this was one of the few times that Dani refused to take pictures of the injury, for *whatever* reason. (A)
- Dudley destroyed a clutch of eggs, stomping them to pieces. (A) and keeps going after birds in their nests. (A) She notes that this is risky, because he could easily escalate to scalping or squab-killing, but still views this aggression as standard.

- When Sissy begins copying the behaviour, repeatedly going after Astrid in her nest, instead of removing Sissy and Dudley from the flock, Dani chose to replace Astrid's eggs with Bram and Cheeks' sterile eggs. "If he crushes them like his Brother did Wilson and Cookie's, at least no peeps will be lost." (A)

Pigeons are often aggressive to one another. One of the means through which breeders handle this in their lofts is by not allowing larger birds unlimited access to the smaller ones. Dudley and Sissy are both Lahore/Modena crosses, and they are big boys. They were not kept away from the smaller birds, and the smaller birds suffer for it. (A) And Dani had, previous to purchasing them, spent years discussing exactly how aggressive and bad-tempered that Modenas famously are.

Despite her words, Dani does not show much interest in preventing her birds suffering. When asked why her birds experience so much infanticide, she states that birds stealing one anothers' nests is normal. (A)

> *Buuut what makes an aggressive, tenacious defender also makes an aggressive, tenacious attacker.*
>
> *And hens also want a cock that can bust the door down and steal a nicer nest in a better location for her.*
>
> *That's why nest location is a status symbol in Pigeon society.*

Allowing your birds to repeatedly ransack other birds nests, shattering the eggs within, and making your only form of intervention not to limit access to the nestboxes - but instead to replace the eggs with infertile ones, so if they are destroyed, you do not lose profits - is absurd. Dani claimed, discussing Sissy and Dudley's aggression, that:

> But if the half modena twins will go after grown ass adults in their nests, that could easily translate to scalping or out right killing a peep.
>
> And I absolutely can NOT subject my residents to being terrorized like that! (A)

Unfortunately, her birds are constantly terrorising each other, through attacks on the other adults and scalping, if not outright murder, of their squabs.

Squab Killing (CONTENT WARNING OF GRAPHIC INJURIES IN THESE LINKS)

Dani frequently posts up images of her wounded animals in various states of injury. Please assume all links in this section *do* link to injuries.

Brightheart, a bird purchased from Gepetto Loft, was shipped in a box with another bird, Radish. Radish scalped her, severed her tongue through the back of her head, for the crime of being shipped in the same box.

Here is a quick selection of some attacks that occurred over three months. These are not all of the ones listed, but please note how many of these are attacks on the squabs, or on nest boxes. The spreadsheet of her birds has a very comprehensive list of the majority of her birds that have passed through, including squabs who are scalped, otherwise injured, or killed.

Please refer to that for a full listing, and once more, mind the warning: Dani posts a significant number of pictures of injured birds and scalped squabs.

> 9-8-21: Pants attacks and scalps Friday, who had already been scalped once before. [A]
>
> 9-8-21: Scans attacks Suki on her nest. Checkers attacks Friday, a squab, who is then scalped by Pants.
>
> 9-9-21: Friday is attacked for the fourth time.
>
> 9-10-21: Checkers attacks Chiffon's squabs.
>
> 9-13-21: Scan attacks Suki in her nest, destroying an egg.
>
> 9-20-21: Brightheart attacks Nobu and Leela on their nest.
>
> 9-22-21: Wess attacked Thistle, dragging them by the beak.
>
> 9-23-21: Acer scalps Jack, a squab.
>
> 9-29-21: Todoraki attacks Dolly on her nest repeatedly, while Kuhcoo drives her into it.
>
> 10-19-21: Nettle potentially scalped Hope, a squab.
>
> 11-16-21: Scan attacks nests until he's placed into quarantine for his aggression. Komodore attacks Brightheart, killing the squab.
>
> 11-29-21: Cotta and Cheeto, the two house birds, are continuously fighting over Dani. Cotta tears several feathers out of Cheeto, and now attacks if they near Dani. Cheeto is now attacking Dani.

On 11-29-21, Dani puts up a post on her patreon discussing aggression in birds once more. It turns out that aggressive pigeons are isolated in the quarantine cages. In the post, you can see Wess, Kuhcoo, Komodore and Scan are all being held there. Of them all, Scan is having the

worst time: he keeps repeatedly injuring himself on the bars in the cage, to the tune of having three damaged toes.

Subsequently, Dani is contemplating euthanising him. It is not recommended to keep pigeons on barred floors, or barred cages, because the risk of their feet getting injured is well-known. But she states she cannot see him having a good quality of life, when he attacks other birds and he dislikes people. She goes on to say:

> *From two parents with different excellent traits and different faults, Most of the babies will inherit an excellent trait and a fault favoring one parent or the other. The ideal babies will inherit both excellent traits with the faults diminished.*
>
> *But there will be babies who inherit both faults and fail to express either parent's excellent traits.*
>
> *You will not know nearly as soon for temperament traits as you would for structure, embellishments, or color/pattern.*

(A)

She says that you will not know temperament traits as immediately as you will know colour. This isn't wrong, but her problem is not that her birds are paired up to manifest excellent traits, with limited flaws. Her birds breed freely, and what they have managed to select for in the flock has resulted in behaviours that should have been obvious to her long before Scan was an issue.

Scan is the product of Cherub and Tandy.

Cookie, the mother of Komodore and Tandy as well as the daughter of Ferdi, is noted to have produced extremely nervous offspring. Scan's aunt, Komodore, attacked Brightheart and killed her squab. Nettle, Scan's niece, was suspected to have attacked and scalped another squab.

Mia, another descendant of Ferdi, disrupted nesting paris and was recommended for a one cock household. Radish, a product of Ferdi through both parents, scalped Brightheart and severed her tongue.

Ferdi's bloodline contains a large number of anxious, aggressive birds with limited to no interest in humans, and a tendency to attack squabs and nesting hens. The sheer number of birds in this bloodline suggests that there is a genetic component to this, the same as many established pigeon breeds hold there is a genetic component to docility.

Dani presents Scan's aggression and euthanisation as a tragedy that could not be fully anticipated. However, she has been dealing with bird aggression since 2016, when **[CW**

INJURED BIRD] one of her pigeons attacked a dove squab. (A) which ultimately resulted in the squab dying of disembowelment.

At this point in time, with as many of her birds have murdered, maimed or scalped squabs, never mind each other, and with the decisions she has continuously made over the years, Scan's misfortune is like many of the problems in the loft - just fucking negligence.

BEHAVIOUR: Stress Behaviours and Fear of Man

Dani has been keeping over 60 pigeons in a 10x10 area. Even before that, she was keeping over 20 pigeons for the majority of the time between 2017 to 2022, in a space that a breeder would typically use for 8-10 pigeons at most.

Pigeons are social flocking animals. However, there are limits to this. When pigeons are crowded into one small area, resources such as food and nest boxes, regardless of how many are available, will eventually become viewed as limited things. Birds will fight over spaces, they will compete over food, and the inability to gain space from one another will lead to more aggression from some, and more bullying towards others.

Dani's birds are constantly showing signs of stress. You can look above in the SQUAB KILLING section, and **on the Google sheet,** to see how often the birds are fighting. The answer, for the record, is constantly. But aggression isn't the only sign of distress in her birds.

Birds are constantly being cast out of their nest boxes by others, having their eggs smashed, and otherwise facing strife in the breeding process. As a result, there has been a distressing number of times that Dani's birds simply lay eggs on the ground. (A) With some parents, it's an unfortunate trend for them to stop feeding their squabs, forcing her to handfeed or foster the squabs instead. (A)

Hens are being abandoned by their mates, as the cocks are allowed to breed freely, resulting in unhealthy squabs.

> *"Wife 2 gets little, if any help setting. Moneypenny sets and feeds without help, but if she has more than one hatch, that younger peep will be malnourished and small, as you saw with Cookie and Biscuit." (A)*

Birds are abandoning their eggs, leaving them to rot, in order to feed their squabs.

> *Money Penny laid her most recent egg before Cookie and Biscuit weaned, which is normal.*

> *Their Dad was supposed to take over their care at that point, but he was too busy taking his turns on Astrid's eggs and treading Schatzi when he wasn't setting.*
> *Penny had to abandon her egg to keep feeding her weanlings, and it rotted. (Better to lose an embryo than peeps who are already here!)* (A)

Birds are being chased out of their nest, losing track of their nests, and laying eggs on the floor.

> *The extra egg under Bean and Charybdis is most likely to be Schatzi's by Ferdi.*
> *Schatzi's nest was the corner floor box on the other side, and it's likely she got confused, tried to lay in the wrong one, was barred by the resident pair, and ended up being stressed into laying it in the sand.*
>
> *She was broody about then and then suddenly wasn't anymore, and it was too many days after the first one to be Penny's second.*
> (A)

Please note the timestamps on these. The above post is from October 2018. Schatzi is stressed enough that she mistook another nest for her own, was chased out of her own, and laid an egg on the ground.

In December 2018, two months later, Dani has done nothing to fix the issue. Once more, Schatzi has laid an egg in the sand rather than a nest - an action that Dani noted was caused by distress and confusion in the first place - and this time around, the egg broken before Dani could find it. (A)

The hens are not the only ones stressed in this situation.

> *I had to box the taste out of Angel's mouth a few minutes ago.*
>
> *Patron: "Oh no what did he do now??"*
>
> *Got jealous of me sifting and tried to go for the GD peeps for attention.*
>
> *The swat caught him on the lip of the nest box, half way through jumping in at them.*
>
> *Bowled his bastard ass over backwards.*

(A)

Stressed birds are aggressive birds, but Dani does not handle the birds in the expected manner. As seen above, when they begin getting too aggressive, Dani has physically reprimanded them. You will probably not find anything online about not striking your birds, because although they

can be fairly large in some breeds, and Angel in particular comes from king stock, ***pigeons are small animals with hollow bones.***

Recommended training advice for pigeons usually relies on treats and cues. When a deterrent is needed, harmless ones are generally recommended, such as spray bottles. Most pigeons can be trained out of poor behavior. When they can't, there is something in the environment or your actions that is causing the behaviours, and it falls upon the owners to fix it.

Dani did not fix the issues with Angel that were making him hyper-aggressive, which involved encouraging him to view her as a mate, and having purchased him *explicitly for that* - *"that, by the way, is why I was excited to get a human attracted young half Utility King."* (A) She did not fix the issue of the sheer overstocking of her aviary. She did nothing to actually fix the situation, save letting him fight with the other cocks, despite the fact she describes him as that could "could kill any of the other birds here with a bite like that to the head or neck," with a risk of leaving "a bloody mess of slain rivals" in her loft, and *letting him fight with smaller birds like Thistle.* (A)

Instead, she has physically struck him and several other birds, and in many cases, eventually sold them to other owners.

Pigeons often have an issue with fearing human hands if they are raised in negative environments. This is a problem that Dani herself has faced with her birds before, noting that even several from her ***dedicated therapy lines*** do not like human company, or particularly want to be around them. Dani is clearly striking the birds lightly enough that it does not cause any injuries that she sees - but the means through which you familiarise and acquaint pigeons with handling is not, generally, through fucking hitting them. Neither is it allowing children to handle your birds so roughly, with constant screaming, that they are now afraid of being held:

> *I'm gonna have to be a lot more restrictive with the kids if they visit again.*
>
> *Abbie got picked up a lot because she's trusting.*
>
> *And she didn't like it.*
>
> *Between her say being ignored and getting her shots, she is now afraid of being picked up, and I'm having to undo it.*
>
> *She had a full on panic attack in the carrier .*

(S)(A)

This post actually contains a great deal of information about her birds' temperments. One of her birds flees at the mention of the harness. Athena, another hatchling, is said to be very nervous. Aphrodite, another hatchling, shows similar distress at the harness, and the daughter of a feral

and Cookie - a descendant from Ferdi's notably anxious bloodline - becomes upset if Dani looks at her.

(It is worth noting that, while this harness training attempt is being undergone, Dani's house pigeon, Ankhou, is attacking the door to the room. Dani says that if she let him inside, he would attack the hatchlings.)

Dani says that she has 19 hatchlings on the ground at this point, and the entire batch may wash out of her therapy program, as none of them are suitable for it. *"If one exposure to a mix of overly excited and skittish kids is enough to wash so many, have I just been talking out of my ass this whole time?" (A)*

I have issues with Dani's breeding project in itself, as listed above - I do not believe she is breeding these birds in any focused fashion, and she does not have any sign that she is having actual results, rather than occasional spats of good luck. But Dani constantly keeps her birds highly stressed. They live in a small, enclosed environment, from which they cannot leave. They are fed poorly, as I will detail in the feeding section, and detail with malnutrition. When they are not actively sick, they are still being dewormed every other month, a process that is taxing on the system - and when they are actively sick, they are isolated away from the flocks in a new space, in an empty, hard cage, where shit from other ill birds above them is continuously reinfecting them, and they are exposed to said taxing medications at a much higher frequency.

Her birds are constantly fighting over nest boxes. Her loft has had repeated issues with ammonia. Birds, when she enters one of her many pandemics, fall off of the perches and die in front of others, when they do not simply die overnight. Dani claims that pigeons are cognizant, easily as aware as a human child, and capable of being traumatised. None of her birds live past five years, and they are constantly being removed from the flock, either by death, illness, or because she has sold them. Birds scalp and attack squabs, and the bodies are left until Dani discovers them - when birds are not wedging themselves into places in the loft where their bodies are left rotting until, once more, Dani finds them.

I feel as if Dani has bred aggression directly into her lines. But even if she had the most docile birds exclusively, with no additions from known aggressive breeds, she would still be facing poor behaviour from stress.

> *Pigeons have the intelligence and emotional depth of a 5 year old human and are more like living with nonverbal children or room mates than owning the average house pet.*

(A)

Dani holds that these birds are cognizant, and they can be traumatised. Every single piece of her loft and the way she is breeding these birds is aimed at creating trauma in them. The fact her birds are aggressive, neurotic and prone to murdering hatchlings is not surprising.

What is honestly more surprising is that she doesn't have more cases of birds just going absolutely batshit, like Goose, and doing things like eating hatchlings alive.

On a marginally lighter note, not at all helping with the stressed behaviours is that Dani likes to breed her birds at remarkably young ages.

Papillon's first egg was laid at 4 months old.

Wookie's first egg was laid at 5 months old.

Silk and Sony, two related birds from the above tree, produced sterile eggs, presumably due to their very young age.

This doesn't need to be an issue in itself - some birds breed early. Many breeders, however, prefer to wait until their pigeon is a year or older before allowing them to hatch out a squab. This is to ensure that the bird is still receiving full nutrition and will successfully be able to put that energy towards health and growing. Pigeons can produce offspring at 4-6 months, but much like with dogs, cats, or even human teenagers, it's not advisable, and it can put the birds' health at risk. More relevant to this section, it causes the birds stress. Instead of focusing on growing and having their instincts set in, birds are placed in the position of having to learn how to take care of eggs and a squab, while they are still half-grown themselves.

This leads to more risk to the egg, more risk to the squabs, and a higher likelihood of birds developing bad habits over time. Dani's birds have a bad habit of stomping on - or to use her word, shredding - their own chicks. This can happen with new parents, but should never be as much of a recurring problem as it is in the Ramsey Loft.

BREEDING: Inbreeding

> Y'know Silk and Sony pairing up concerns me a little. Sony being a... product of her own brother who's now paired up with her uncle... I've read up too much on the Hapsburg Dynasty to know where this is going.

mononykus77

Haha.

I don't enforce any pairings.

I document who they pair up with and what comes of it, and the only interfering I do is to retire birds that aren't fit or friendly.

Pigeons are incredibly genetically varied. It takes several generations of parent to child inbreeding (like, 10-20) to have the same effect as two generations of parent child breedings in humans.

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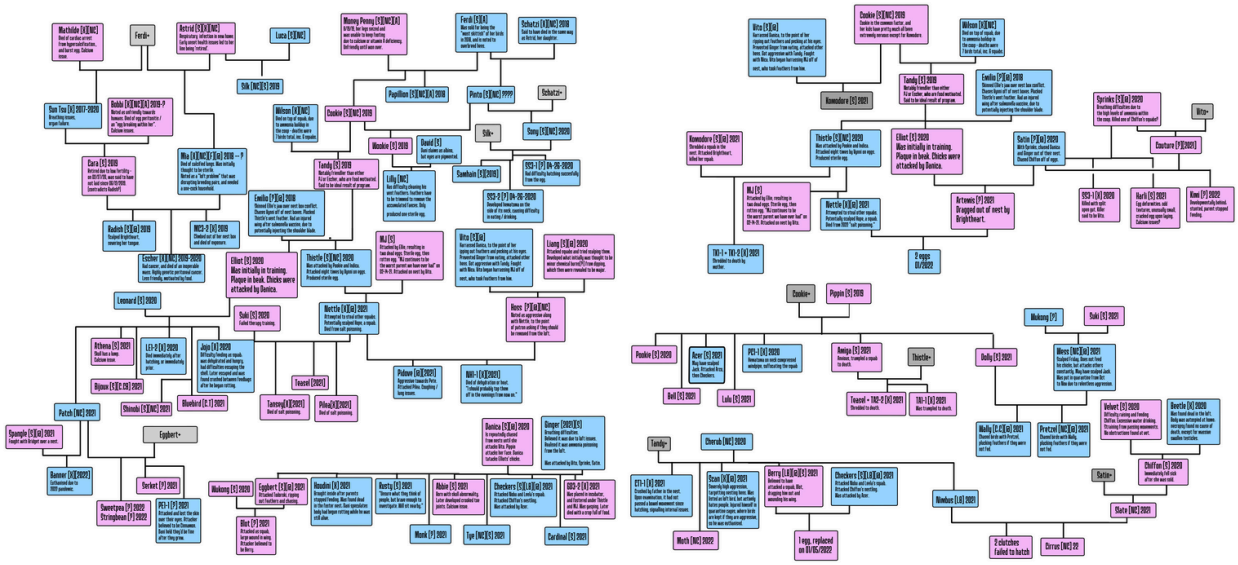
(S)

Linebreeding is a careful practice of breeding relatives, with usually one or two degrees of separation involved, to create a limited gene pool in which set traits can be easily produced. I personally am not always fond of the limitations that linebreeding cause, but it is the foundation of our modern livestock, and many of our companion species period.

With that said, inbreeding is not linebreeding, and Dani has always inbred her birds to their own detriment. What she says above is not correct: most pigeon breeders, while they are fine with inbreeding to an extent, do not believe that pigeons are somehow so genetically diverse that you can have generations of parent-to-child crossover without creating problems.

I am not going to source that, but instead, I'll just direct eyes back to the family tree:



[Full-sized picture](#) | archive (https://archive.ph/wip/YgdNK)

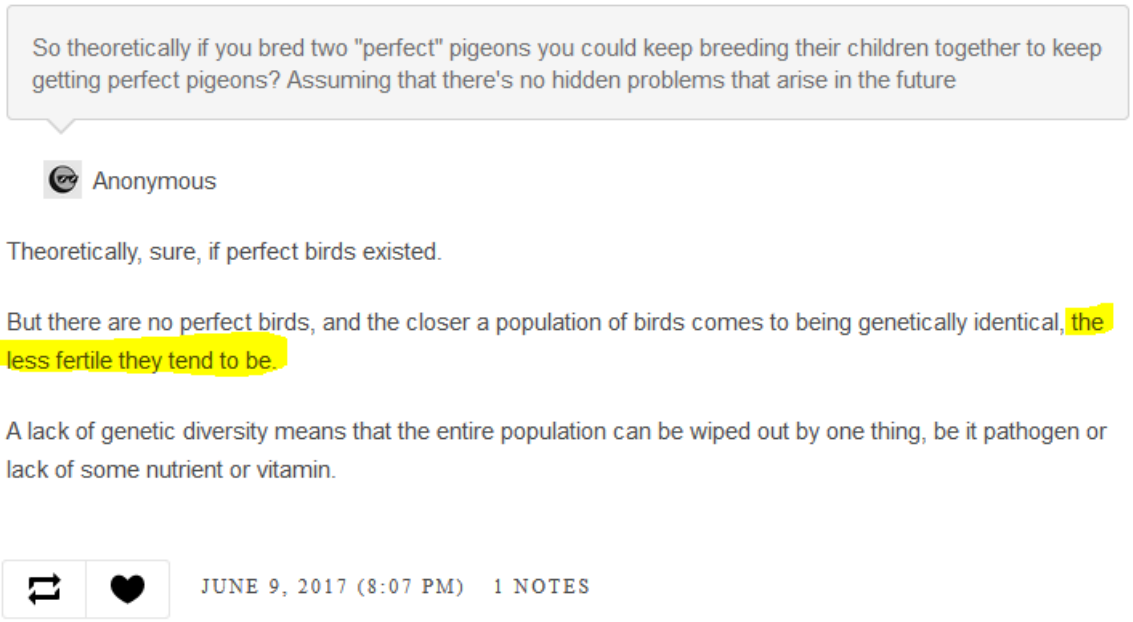
And to Dani's own words.

Retirement Event

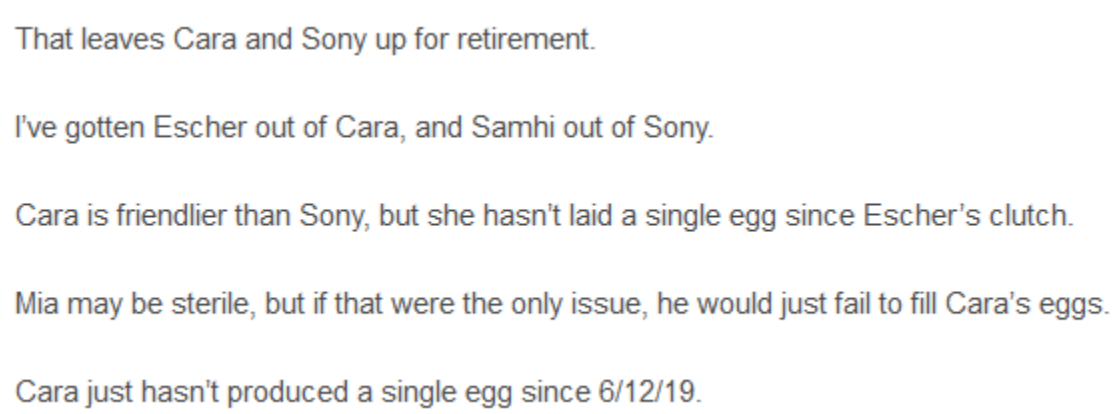
Ok, due to the severity of the health issues that have cropped up so early in Mathilde, Astrid, Bobbi, Schatzi, Escher, and now Sun Tsu, I am retiring their high content offspring early.

Though they themselves are presently healthy, there is a chance of passing on dangerous or deleterious genes to their offspring, so these absolutely MUST go to non-breeding homes.

(S)



(S)



(S)

Dani's inbreeding has resulted in several of the lofts' birds dying young from various ailments. The average pigeon can live from fifteen to twenty years. Birds in the Ferdi lineage were dying before they hit the age of 5. In April 2020, one of the younger birds in the bloodline, Escher, died of an unusual cancer:

I'll spare you all the literally gory details.

Cancer was confirmed.

Peritoneal cancer is insanely rare.

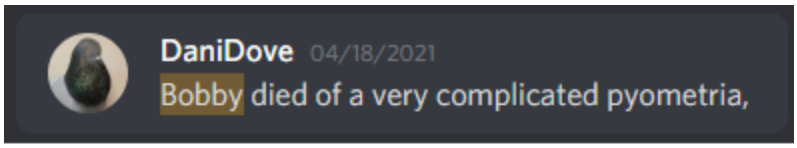
The Peritoneum consists of the lining of the abdominal wall and the web of connective tissue suspending the abdominal organs.

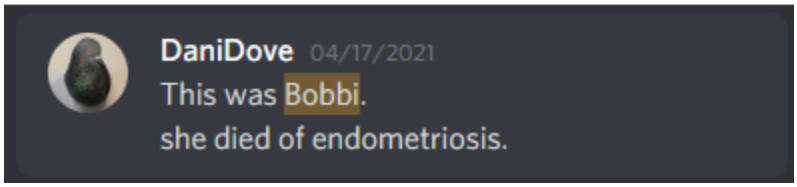
Along with physically holding up the abdominal organs, it produces the fluid that supports them and allows for comfortable movement with in the abdominal cavity.

Escher's Peritoneum was so obscenely thickened that its overgrowth was both engulfing and constricting her organs.

The overproduction of fluid filled her abdominal cavity like a water balloon, putting so much pressure on her chest cavity that her heart and liver were being deprived of oxygen.

[S] [A]
One of Ferdi's daughters died of internal issues.





Astrid, one of the birds that bred with Ferdi to create the current linage, gained a respiratory infection, which would not necessarily be alarming in itself -

We have received terrible news about Astrid!

She was found to have a respiratory infection not long after she got to her new home, and there have been several serious complications.

Last I heard, she's stable.

Goz was still trying to feed from her right up until he went home, but he went home weeks before she did, and her squeaker face never cleared up.

I didn't think anything of her having the worst squeaker face, because she usually does for quite a while after weaning a peep.

Poor baby, and her poor mom!

She apparently had a mild infection camouflaged by the squeaker face that was exacerbated by her trip and then snowballed.

Since her vet also mentioned lice, we are checking all of our birds and reminding recent adopters to let me know immediately if there are any worrying changes.

[S]

Save when Mia, her son, died of calcified lungs.
[S] [A]

> Right lateral view.
>
> No calcification (which would define an egg in an egg bound hen), but a definite mass.
>
> Suspected peritonitis.
>
> But our vet does not have the equipment for avian surgery, or even blood work.
>
> And the one that does only has avian vets on two days of the week.
>
> Ours will be getting them, since I come in pretty often with birds, but that won't do Escher any good.
>
> Until we can get her seen at Highland, she is inside in the carrier to keep her as still as possible.
>
> We have been advised to soak her in 102° baths and treat her with Ankhou's anti-inflammatory.
>
> There are calcium absorption and reproductive issues in both branches of her family tree.
>
> Escher was sired by Mia out of Cara.
>
> Cara was sired by Sun Tsu out of Bobbi.
>
> Mia was sired by Ferdi out of Astrid.
>
> Bobbi was sired by Ferdi out of Mathilde.
>
> Bobbi (Escher's maternal Grandmother) recently died from an egg breaking inside her.
>
> Astrid (Escher's Paternal Grandmother) died young from a complex of Trich and unidentified bacterial infection.
>
> I can't say if Astrid's cause of death is a contributing factor, but her daughter, Schatzi, died the same way, so it's a distinct possibility.
>
> Mathilde (Escher's maternal Great Grandmother) died of a calcified heart.

[A]

At this point, the Ramsey Loft decided to remove the most inbred members of the bloodline, rather than breed more. However, the less inbred birds, they chose to keep. And since then, the Ramsey Loft has continued breeding them.

Some could argue that these are bad luck or coincidences, rather than a genetic flaw in all of these birds. However, the line does have a recurring issue of dead squabs, of various varieties. Tandy laid an egg in 04/10/2021, referred to as CT1-1.

> *Something was very wrong with the little CT baby...*
>
> *I just went to clean that nest box... And there was no poop in it what so ever...*

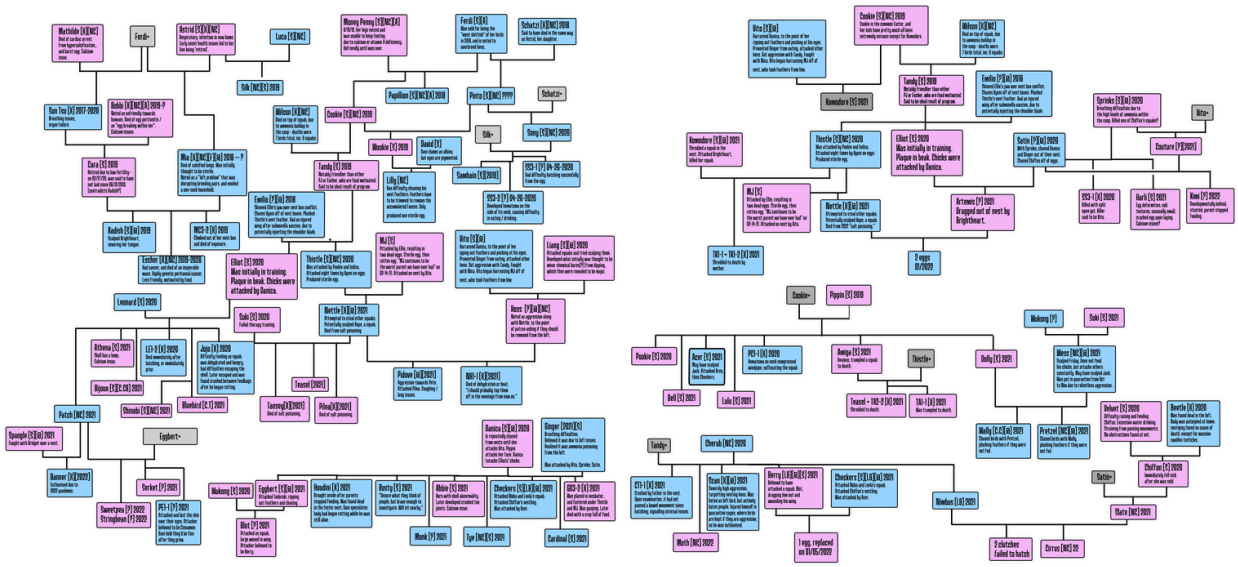
> *That peep was being pumped, but nothing came out after that first poo it pooed when I picked it up on hatch day..*

[S] [A]

It isn't clear what, exactly, was wrong with the squab, because it was then crushed to death by its parent.

> *The little CT baby didn't make it..*
>
> *It had a full crop. Looks like Cherub just mooshed it while it was repositioning.*
>
> *It was found flattened with one leg stuck out behind it.*

[S] [A]



Full-sized picture | archive (https://archive.ph/wip/YgdNK)

As of 2022, the bloodline is *still* being bred. Nettle, out of Thistle and MJ, was bred to his aunt Artemis, and two eggs were produced.

While inbreeding has not worked well for this bloodline at any point in the past, perhaps this fifth or sixth attempt will be the charm that pulls it all together.

BEHAVIOUR: Sexualisation of Birds and Other Weird Shit

Let's start off with Dani's explanation of pigeon sexuality, and birds that want to fuck you.

> *"So, if you have a single housepet pigeon who wants you to be his wife, there isn't any harm in it, like there is with a parrot. Part of the reason that it is harmful for a parrot is that parrots are very monogamous. Pigeons are not, by the way.*
>
> *Or, let me rephrase - sexual fidelity is integral to monogamy for a parrot. It is not for a pigeon. Both sexes of a pigeon pair can tread or be treaded, by whoever they want, away from the nest, without their mate being upset. Unless their mate wants sex right then, and they are giving it to someone else instead."* **[She pauses to stroke Angel's back. Keep in mind, this is sexual behaviour for a pigeon.]** *"You are a handsome young man."*
>
> **[Strokes his back.]** *"It is very much a need for pigeons to bond with a mate. They do not care what sex that mate is. The need to pairbond is stronger than the need to actually reproduce."* [talks to Angel, stroking his back] *"So it's actually been official for a single house pet pigeon, that if you do not have a bird for him to pair with - because he needs to pair with something - you will need to deal with that something being you."* [Pauses to stroke Angel's back.] *"He is going to drive you. It is going to hurt."* [Pauses to stroke Angel's back.] *"Pigeon love is pinchy."*
>
> **[Places her entire hand on Angel's back and presses down, before resuming in stroking his back.]**
>
> *"But you can get him through the driving part of this, basically, by fighting him back a little bit If you want to give the impression of - no! I'm a rival! Instead of fighting back this way, or letting him do this, you - bap bap bap!"* **[Imitates smacking her pigeon on the head.]** *"You imitate wingboxing, because it's not done between mates. It's done between rivals. And for male pigeons, if it isn't his wife, male or female, then it's his rival."*
>
> **[Angel gets chased off of her lap by Satin, who chases him to the shelving units. Satin returns to the nest, and Angel sits back on her knee.]**

[S]

First off, let's just say: for all the same reasons that people are not supposed to encourage or let their dogs hump their legs, **pigeon fanciers do not generally encourage their birds into viewing them as a mate.** Imprinting is not ideal for the pigeon, for a lot of reasons. **It is not**

helpful for animals to view humans as their mates. It can happen in one pigeon households, but there is a reason most breeders and loft owners will tell companion owners that they should have two or more pigeons. **This is not to make money** - pigeons in my area, which is not popular with fanciers, still sell for ten dollars per adult, purebred, pedigreed bird. This is because pigeons are social animals and humans cannot fulfill all of their social needs.

But we will cover that in a bit. To start with, to get this out of the way: **Dani encourages this behaviour in some birds, and discourages it in others. Either pigeon's matebonding to humans is acceptable, and is an innate factor to pigeons that simply must be dealt with, or it is not, and she's letting her birds engage in sexual acts with her for her own reasons.**

Dani purchased Angel, specifically for the fact he is a **human imprinted utility king that would see her as a mate.** [A] Upon purchasing him, she stated that he could very easily kill the other pigeons in her coop, and that moreso, she *expected it might happen* if his urges were not redirected, because he's significantly larger than many of her other birds. But when he engaged in the behaviour that Dani claims one must simply expect from male pigeons - trying to fuck her hand - she punished him, despite buying him *specifically because he was human imprinted.*

She also punished him, despite the fact she has actively encouraged this behaviour. I personally hate watching videos, so here's a transcript to the first part of **3/13/21 BREAKFAST WITH BIRDS**. I've highlighted the portions in red that stood out to me the most, but taken in the greater context of her views on these birds, and her encouragement to let them engage in sexual behaviour with their owners, this is bizarre.

> *"Wrists are the only things that have any sex appeal to Angel. And mine are the only wrists in here. This is a minor inconvenience at most with a housepet bird."* **[Angel begins pecking her hand. She plays with him briefly, then begins stroking his back.]** *"This is driving behaviour, by the way. He is trying to prove he is strong enough to protect me, and I am a giant. Sometimes he's gentle and sweet about it, but when he gets frustrated, he is actually trying to hurt me."*
>
> *"My boy wants very much for me to let him smash. I'm like, oh buddy - look, he's getting very frustrated that I won't, and it's coming out in aggression when he's biting me. Some of these are driving bites, but most of them are frustrated bites, because I'm not doing the thing he wants me to do."* **[Angel flutters onto her chest. She strokes his back.]** **"***He is very prone to biting my face, so he's not allowed up there right now."* **[She resumes playing with him, and resumes stroking his back.]** *"Human raised pigeons tend to be switches. They tend to be just as prone to allow themselves to be tread, as they are to want to be tread. And he is very excited. He's just shivering!"*
>
> **[Strokes him from the top of his head to his back, playing with his tail feathers.]** *"And he's just shivering with happiness!"* **[Pats him on the back, applying pressure**

and pushing down.] *"This is a confused man. Is it fight time again? Oh, it's fight time again!"*

"Good boy. We're working on hands being the interactable part of a human. He used to do this to my face. He tried to do this **[EN: pecking]** *to my eye, the once. I pitched him off my shoulder. So, this is permissible. He is allowed to fight my hand. He can fight my hand, he can tell my hand he's mad at me, and he will not get in trouble for that, because this is just a confused pigeon -"* **[Strokes his back: remember, this is sexual behaviour to a pigeon.]** *"- being a confused pigeon."*

"This is driving. He is trying to put my hand somewhere that he considers to be a nestbox. Not that he knows that's what he's doing.. this is just instinct. This is just what you're supposed to do with a girl you like. Grab her, and shake her, and throw her to a place!" **[Moves her hand to her inner thigh.]** *"Is this where this goes? Is this where it goes?"*

"He has not been trained as to that's where it goes. But he'll pick up on it." **[Pans camera to show her hand now resting on her upper, inner thigh.]** *"The fact he's not still fighting with it means that is, in fact, where that goes. He gave me one stay-still disciplinary peck, and he's done fighting now. Done fighting! Hand is where it goes, in what he considers nesty space, which for him, is a lap."* **[Resumes stroking his back.]** *"Are we done now?"*

"He's also attracted to feet, which is very common."

"The problem with imprinted pigeon is that they think they're human. They do not realise they are a pigeon, but they still have pigeon instincts -" **[goes to tap him on the underside of his ass]** *"-that they are compelled to act on. They're intelligent enough They're intelligent enough to know their human flockmates treat them different from the rest of the household."*

"He's confused and he's mad about it. It's gonna be fight time - it'll be fight time a lot. Fight time will be frequent." **[Strokes his back.]** *"It's also why I'm being, for the most part, pretty careful to preen around his face and his neck."* **[She is not: the majority of her contact with him is stroking his back throughout this video.]** *"Oh, it's fight time again." [She is playing by boxing her closed hand against his chest.] "He's done with preening, but - he's not done with fight time!"* **[Strokes his back.]**

[S]

Human imprinting is not ideal, and encouraging your birds to view you as a mate is not normalised. This is because, as with dogs, **it can increase the aggression of the bird.** This is evident just from the video above. **Even while Dani states that being seen as a pigeon's mate is a minor inconvenience, she also talks about how he will attack her, how he will attack with her with the intention of harming her, and how it *will* hurt when he begins**

engaging in these behaviours. She talks about how he has tried *to peck her in the eyes* from the frustration of being wound into a sexual state, and from the frustration of viewing a human sexually, when he is a pigeon.

In this video, Dani did not mention that if she paid attention to other birds, **he would attack them, to the point of trying to harm a peep by trying to rip it out of her hands by the anus. [A]** He would attack her, [A] and **he would attack other birds in order to simply get her attention.** [A] Bird-Bird was her husbands' bird, who was similarly encouraged to bond with him. As a result, Bird-Bird was regularly noted to attack Dani when her husband engaged with her. [A]

In the video, Dani only briefly discusses the fact pigeons view wrists sexually, and that imprinted birds will possess sexual attraction towards their owners. On her tumblr, she discusses how an inclined pigeon will actively jack off on you, if given the opportunity. [A]

Most keepers discourage this. This is not healthy behaviour *to* encourage, because it will cause aggression in the pigeon *at the very least.* In the video above, Dani implies that she tries to discourage this behaviour in Angel, through the mention of petting him on the head. But she is actively stroking his back, repeatedly, throughout this video, as well as pressing down on it, both behaviours that are viewed as sexual by the bird.

The fact that she makes a *point* of specifying that she tries to pet the head is a sign that she is *aware* that this behaviour is sexual in nature, and she is *choosing* to do it.

Relevant to this is the fact, while she claims is discouraging it in Angel, she tolerates-to-encourages it in Ankhou, a bird that she refers to as her husband. [A] That isn't a fact I would usually make note of, because people call their pigeons all sorts of names - but in the context of the rest of it, it is worth noting as a sign of how fucking weird this all is in combination.

> **If you don't bump a cock off you while he's trying to mate what happens? Does he just rub against you till he's done? Would it be better to make him frustrated by rebuffing him or just like him finish. Weird question sorry hahah**
>
> *He pretty much rubs his butt on your wrist or foot while fluttering to keep his balance for a few seconds until he leaves a little drop of semen and hops down.*
>
> *I usually just let Ankhou finish.*
>
> *He gets it out of his system and goes on with his day, and his bond with me is reinforced.*

I will say here: this is a pigeon. This isn't the worst behaviour to tolerate. But I've seen people argue that this is normal, and this is just what pigeons do, so you should let them just fucking jerk off on you.

Mating *is* what pigeons do! However, pigeons are domestic animals. We train pigeons not to attack us. We train them to return to the loft when they are let loose. We train them to come when called, to do tricks, to perform and live in ways that work best for their keepers, and for the most part, people do go ahead and train their birds not to try and fuck their hands. This is not very hard.

After all, Dani discouraged this behaviour in the bird she bought explicitly for being a human imprint, despite knowing that he would attempt to do it. That is the usual, standard approach to a bird trying to fuck you, for the record. Some forum posts on the matter:

> "Our first pigeon, an injured feral named Phoebe, saw us as her mate once she healed. Our avian vet said to be careful not to pet her back. We diverted her attention with toys but she aleays flicked her wing tips. Thank you for rescuing the bird. Dont be shocked if you get eggs."
>
> "So he has a female? You should start giving less attention to him. Show him you are not interested by ignoring him. I have 2 males (handraised) that used to mate with my hands. When I started getting more pigeons, they paired off with females. What a relieve that was!"
>
> "I don't think it is funny at all. in fact I think it is inappropriatly gross to let an animal, bird or otherwise mate with a person's hand. take your hand away people ! get the bird a mate if that applies."

Dani does not allow Angel to fuck her wrist, despite noting in a video that "wrists are the only thing he is attracted to". [A] While I am very glad she does not allow him to jerk off on her wrist, as she did with Ankhou, one must ask why she is continuously stroking him throughout the videos, despite even specifically noting that she should be petting him on the head.

Because these behaviours can be avoided and they can be stopped. Pigeons will try to fuck a lot of things. Dogs will *also* try to fuck a lot of things, but when good dog owners' dogs start humping legs, *they train them to stop.* Pigeons are the same, as Dani herself references in this response:

> **One thing I was curious about! In the Escorting Bird-bird video, you said Samhain was offering her to kiss? I see my boy doing that movement a lot! How do I accept?**
>
> When you see him work his jaw like that, reach out with one finger like you're gonna poke his cheek, but stop before actually making contact.
>
> Nod your head at him and mimic the low grunts, or just talk to him in a similarly low, rumbly tone of voice. It may take him a few tries, but he'll try to fit your finger in his mouth and shiver to pump for you.

> You can gently bob your finger a little to encourage him
>
> Don't worry. You won't actually get far enough to touch the food he's trying to coax you to take.
>
> He's going to want to tread your wrist after that, though, so **don't give him mixed messages if that grosses you out.**

[S] [A]

As listed above, if a pigeon views you as their mate and is allowed to engage in mating behaviours, they will get more aggressive towards other birds, other people, and even you. Another problem is that pigeons will vomit on occasion as a part of their sexual behaviours: this is what they do for their mates, to help ensure they are fed while they sit on the nest.

And that second behaviour is an example of yet more reasons **you should not let your bird see you as a mate.** Birds hide symptoms. By the time that they show signs of illness, they are often already at deaths door. Heightened aggression, nerves, vomiting are all parts of a pigeons' behaviour towards those that it views as a mate, **but they're *also* signs of illness.**

There is very little benefit to letting your pigeon view you as its mate, and there are several risks and downsides that come with it. When pigeons get lonely and they start to misdirect their attention towards humans, people will frequently give their pigeons stuffed toys if they are raising them alone.

Raising a single pigeon by itself, however, is not generally recommended - they are flock animals, and if the pigeon does have another pigeon as a companion, that will generally remove the mating behaviour aimed towards humans in the first place. Pigeons are healthiest with other pigeons. While this cannot always be the case - you will have bird aggressive pigeons on occasion, you will have injured or disabled pigeons, you may have a bird that just doesn't fucking like other birds - that doesn't mean the solution is to let the bird view you as a mate.

It's harmful to the bird, and perhaps more relevant to the keepers, it can hurt the owners - because your bird *will* generally get aggressive, and many of the breeds most commonly kept as companions or pets *are* of the larger variety.

Now, this isn't just my personal pet peeve of an issue. Vets state, with regards to bird masturbation:

> Discourage masturbation behavior using distraction and redirection. Physical hugging or scratching around the head is acceptable, but scratching, stroking or petting your bird around the back, rump, and hind end may cause sexual stimulation. Redirect your bird's attention towards other toys and healthy interactive play with you, the owner. Foraging

> type treats or toys are a great way to help with this. If you cannot distract or redirect the bird, then quietly return him to his cage or play gym.

But once again, Dani's view is that you should simply let the pigeon engage in this behaviour.

> *A pigeon cock will be more or less intensely amorous depending mostly on his age and hormones, and since domesticated animals have no breeding season, that's gonna vary wildly between individuals.*
>
> *There are going to be times where a cock will want his mate several times a day, times when he'll be ok once a day it every other day, and times where he'll be generally more intersted in snuggling and preening and won't even try to mount.*
>
> *Young birds (first 4 years) tend to be more intensely amorous than older birds.*
>
> *It's *really* obvious, but he'll just move his fluffy butt to avoid something like a towel that will be abrasive to his tiny, tiny sperm ducts, so it won't do you any actual good. (I've tried.)*
>
> *The act of copulation, from start to finish, is usually about three to five seconds of frantic fluttering.*
>
> *He will not ejaculate every time. That seems to be random.*
>
> *Consistency is identical to human ejaculate. It even looks the same, but a more opaque white. And only about 2-5 drops at once. Not runny.*
>
> *They tend to prefer wrists.*
>
> *I tend to treat it like a poo accident: Wipe off with Tissue/TP square, then apply a dab of hand sanitizer.*
>
> *Aside from being… pretty squicky… it's mildly annoying at worst.*

(S)

The comparison of bird ejaculate to human ejaculate in a post about letting it wank on your hand is not my favorite thing, here, but worth noting is the fact that Dani refers to this as "mildly annoying at worst".

But her definition of "mildly annoying" is questionable. She allowed Ankhou to view her as a mate, and Ankhou was willing to attack hatchlings over interacting with her as a result. Angel, another bird who viewed Dani as a mate, was willing to attack squabs and nearly kill them if they interacted with her. [A] He would attack her, if she was not paying attention to him, [A] and he would attack other birds in order to get her attention. [A]

Bird-Bird, another pigeon who viewed Dani's husband as her mate, would attack Dani regularly. [A]

These are not the behaviours a companion animal should have. Pigeons do not need to be placed in a position where they will attack nearly everything because they have inappropriately become attached to a human who cannot fulfill the role of a mate to them. This is stressful to the bird for a number of reasons: a human cannot fill in the role of another pigeon in *any* of the ways that the pigeon needs.

> *Horny pet pigeons are just a fact of life, and, unlike doves, they are smart enough to recognize and thus prefer a living thing over an inanimate object.*
>
> *Single pigeons will fall in love with you no matter what you do.*
>
> *Female pigeons are very sweet, cuddly, kissy, and needy. They will want ALL of your attention, follow you everywhere, sit on or near you, and be in heaven if you pet them in any capacity. Chest and back of the neck are the least arousing, but they will literally be triggered to begin ovulating by the sight of your face and the sound of your voice.*
>
> *Male pigeons will also follow you everywhere, but their love is very pinchy due to a courtship behavior called Driving, where in the cock will chase the hen to a nest spot he picked out, biting, slapping, and physically dragging her to force her into that spot.*
>
> *He does not care that you are not a pigeon. He will still be compelled to drive you.*

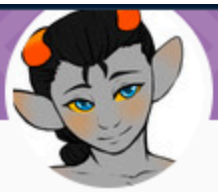
(S)(A)

Dani says that this behaviour is impossible to prevent, no matter what you do, but she persisted in supposedly discouraging Angel from it. Other pigeon keepers, as I linked above, note ways that they have diverted their pigeons amorous attentions from them and towards objects like stuffed toys within their house instead, despite Dani's assertion that pigeons are smart enough to "prefer a living thing over an inanimate object".

This behaviour is not impossible to divert. She simply chooses not to divert it, until she wants to.

Now: I have been involved with pigeons for many years at this point. I have never heard people discussing if their birds are wanking, if their birds want to fuck them, if they're horny, or if they're driving people. It's a bird. No one has ever told me of having their birds mate with their hands. No one has ever shared how their birds have left *a little drop of semen* on their hands.

None of this is necessarily harmful in itself, but talking about letting your animals jack off on you, **how your animals masturbate using their offspring, [A]** how constantly horny they are, when you also have a history of comparing your pets to your sexual partners - with explicitly sexualised language - that's weird.



DoveCote

@cotestuck / cotestuck.tumblr.com

Hi, Tumblr, I'm Dani. ^v^If you are a bird/pet blog wondering why a blog centered almost exclusively around roleplay is following you, it's because I breed, foster, rehab and adore doves and pigeons. Go check out and follow my sideblog, Ramsey Ringnecks, if RP isn't your cup'a tea.

Ask me anything | Follow

Posts

cotestuck Follow
Jun 15, 2013

My husband and his ball python...

Have a lot in common...

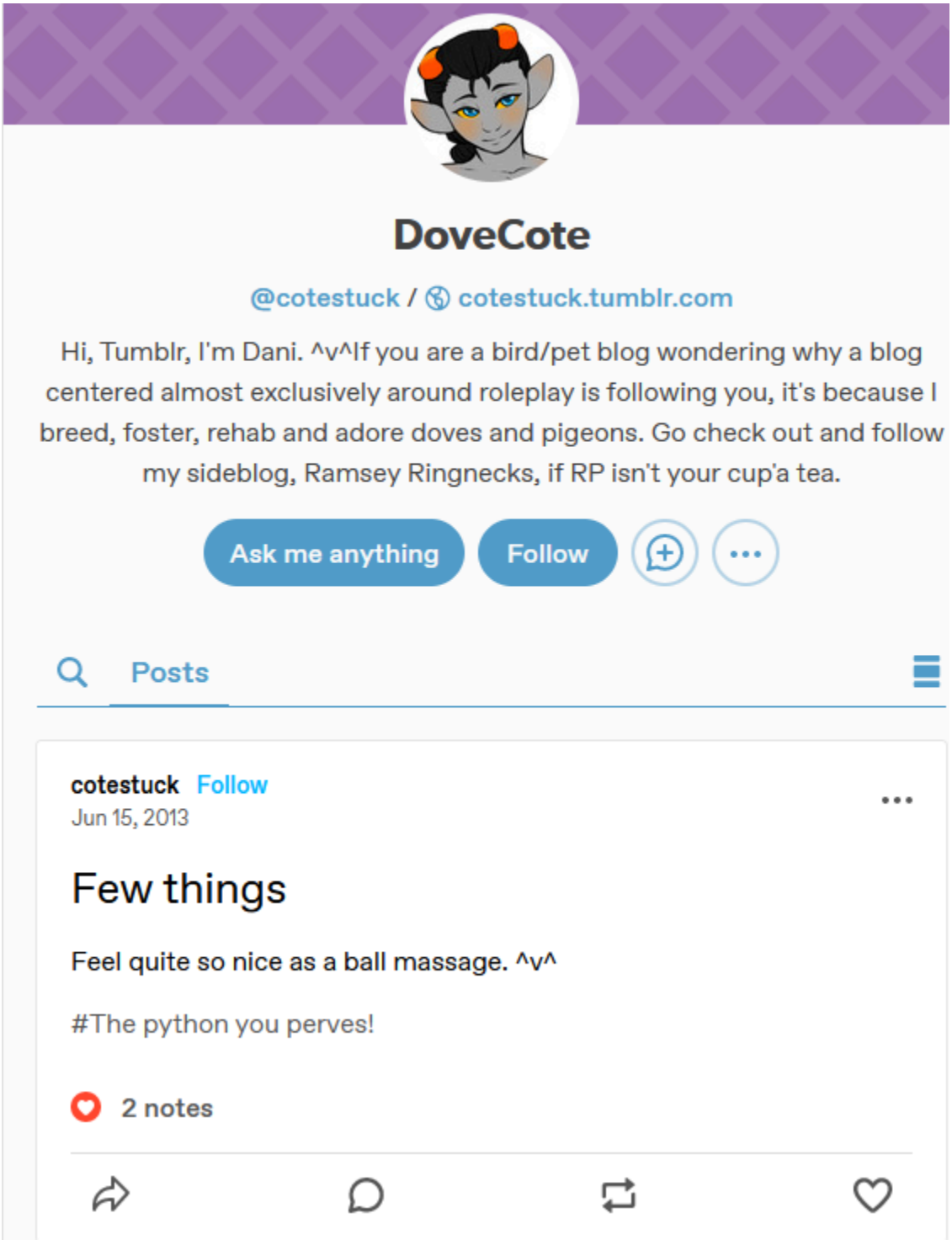
They are gentle and sweet tempered.

Physical contact with them is very soothing.

Each is most contented either holding my bra strap, cupping my breast, or burying his face in my cleavage.

#OOC as all hell. XD

3 notes



Note the timestamps, and the fact this is from the same day. This is also weird. I don't know what to really say about this behaviour, other than the fact this is abnormal, and people do not usually talk about their pets in this manner, including breeders.

If someone spoke about how they let their dogs hump their leg and wipe off afterwards, because it's easier than training them, they would be looked askance at. If someone spoke about how their dog is happiest burying his face into their cleavage, and how dog massages feel fantastic, people would be a little concerned.

I don't think the fact she's referring to a bird and a reptile respectively change the fact this is bizarre. This is not the way people generally speak of their animals, whether they are a breeder, rehabber, or just a fucking pet owner.

And the focus on consent that her blog repeatedly has with pigeons - endorsing the idea that these animals are cognizant enough to consent to certain activities, or behaviours, to the point that they can understand apologies and the idea of "necessity" vs "want" in violating said consent [A] - is an unfortunate companion to her talk of letting her bird masturbate regularly on her hand.

FEEDING

FEEDING: Pigeon Digest: Vegetables and Grit

This section ended up longer than it needs to be, because I got annoyed. Enjoy the research article links!

First off, I'm just putting this out there:

> **Birds on all-seed diets may be more prone to this disease because seeds lack vitamin A, a nutrient essential to keeping both birds' respiratory tracts and immune systems healthy.**
- https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/aspergillosis-in-birds

There is, in fact, a reason why people recommend feeding your pigeons a small amount of vegetables, and that reason is not spite or a desire to treat pigeons as parrots.

There are a number of research articles in existence on what, exactly, domestic pigeons (columbia livia) eat. **Dani stated that the belief that pigeons can process vegetables is a remnant of parrot keepers, and that they are incapable of digesting it.** I am not actually certain where she got this idea, but common belief by pigeon keepers holds that it is *not:*

-
- https://www.pigeons.biz/threads/suitable-fruits-and-vegetables-for-pigeons.4052/
- https://www.pigeons.biz/threads/techniques-for-feeding-greens-to-pigeons.67539/
- https://www.pigeons.biz/threads/can-pigeons-digest-vegetables.116602/

And that is a view shared by the majority of professional agencies dedicated to bird keeping.

(With that said, not everything can be eaten by pigeons: please do your research *before* you give an animal in your care any access to new food, because the list of what can poison domestic animals is very long, and can often be unexpected. That is a link to one such list, but as always, research ***before*** you do something that can harm your pet.)

However, since Dani has stated that she is a better pigeon-keeper than those who have been in the hobby long-term, [A] and because she has stated that she knows more than Palomacy, one if not the leading pigeon rehoming organisation, [A] I went ahead and dug up research articles just for this.

In one New Zealand study, feral pigeons were taken into a loft while they laid their first batch of eggs, while being fed maize and poultry pellets. After their squabs were half-grown, they were given supplementary feeding for one month, and allowed to forage across the countryside. They would continue returning to the loft to feed their squabs and lay new eggs. The crops of 120 birds were examined in total from this group, which were then compared to the crops of 123 ferals on the coastal cliff of Cape Kidnappers.

Pigeons of Havelock North were located in an agricultural area, and foraged within the surrounding farmlands. The pigeons of Cape Kidnappers were located on a coastal cliff region. The birds of Cape Kidnappers ate more peas, barley and maize in total, over the course of the year, than the birds of Havelock North, who were located by these fields. Havelock North birds instead had a more varied diet, which included nightshade and clover, and both populations were shown to eat earthworms and slugs.

In a later study covering British birds, the food was similarly varied. Throughout the winter, the birds were primarily public-fed, and the diet included - among bread (clearly unsuitable), peas, wheat, barley, maize, peanuts, millet and seeds - included apple pips and peel, grape pips, and carrot fragments. By May well into September, when a large number of birds were feeding in the fields and on the farms, even though barley featured in almost all of the examined crops, domestic scraps were still highly present. In addition, almost every month showed birds were regularly consuming earthworm cocoons.

Domestic pigeons are domesticated. While their diets still overlap with their non-domesticated cousins, they are not identical. Domestic dogs' nutritional needs differ from wolves; while a gray wolf requires raw meat, a domestic dog can very easily sicken and die from the same meal. Similarly, wild pigeons nutritional needs differ from domestic pigeons.

Almost every study of feral pigeons shows that they do regularly consume leafy produce, regardless of the region that the ferals are tested. In Central Europe, a separate study showed that herbs and the green portions of them specifically made up 1.5% of the diet - while minor, they are still regularly consumed.

In Valencia, one of the older continuous traditions of pigeon-keeping, pigeons are routinely fed seeds, fruits, cereal, and vegetables. The diet used in this region has been specifically cultivated for centuries to work best for the birds in their local environment. I am ultimately a simp for modern medicine, and I do not generally endorse folk tradition over throwing money at my vets to solve things - however, pigeon keeping is a hobby that has traditionally been built off of those traditions, and still relies on them today.

And in this case, common knowledge from rescuers, hobbyists, racers and breeders, studies of feral pigeons, and long-term communities relying on inherited traditions all agree: while it should never be a primary part of your animals' diet, pigeons do eat vegetables, and they do supply an important source of nutrition to them.

The only one that disagrees is Dani. [A] In this post, she states:

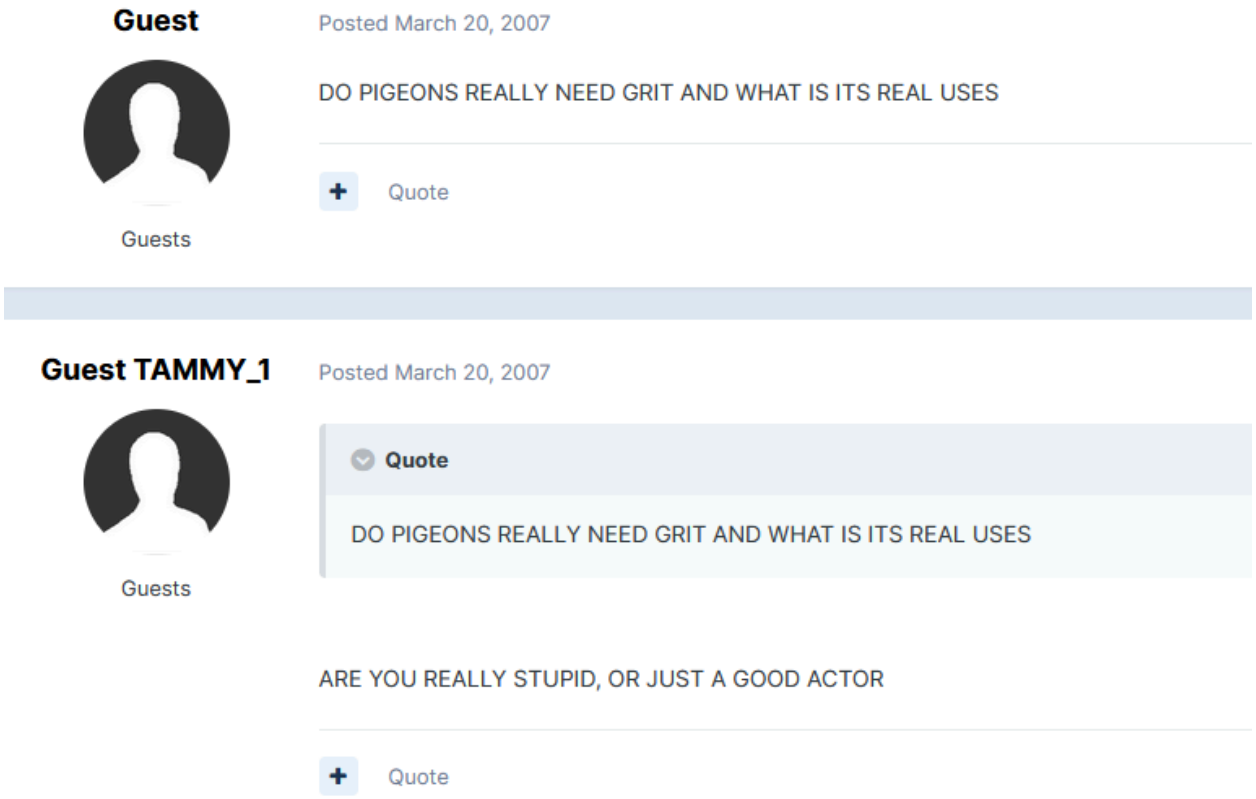
> Leaf, stem, root, tuber and vegitable flesh are largely comprised of Cellulose, the stuff that makes wood rigid.
>
> Animals cannot process cellulose on their own.
>
> They need bacteria for that, which is stored in a specialized organ called the Cecum, which branches off from the intestine in many species, and it just an extra length of it in others (such as humans and ruminants.)
>
> In most birds, the cecum branches off of the intestines and food does not directly pass through it. Bacteria are excreted from it to digest the vegetation that the body cannot break down unaided.

This is true! But the information is not necessarily correct in the way that it is presented. Pigeons possess a small to limited cecum. Their ability to digest cellulose is subsequently fairly poor. Parrots *also* possess a small to limited cecum, but if they should or should not receive vegetables is a matter of debate. And while Dani notes that parrots crack the casing of a seed prior to eating it, and pigeons do not.

Which leads us into:

FEEDING: Insoluble Grit, Soluble Grit, and Calcium Defiencies

This document has been *wildly* depressing to write, so a little piece of levity that I found while researching:



The pigeon fancier community is usually very sweet! But just like our birds, even the nicest person occasionally just decides to be a fucking pissant. Tammy, *please.* It's a common question!

And one we are going to go ahead and break down.

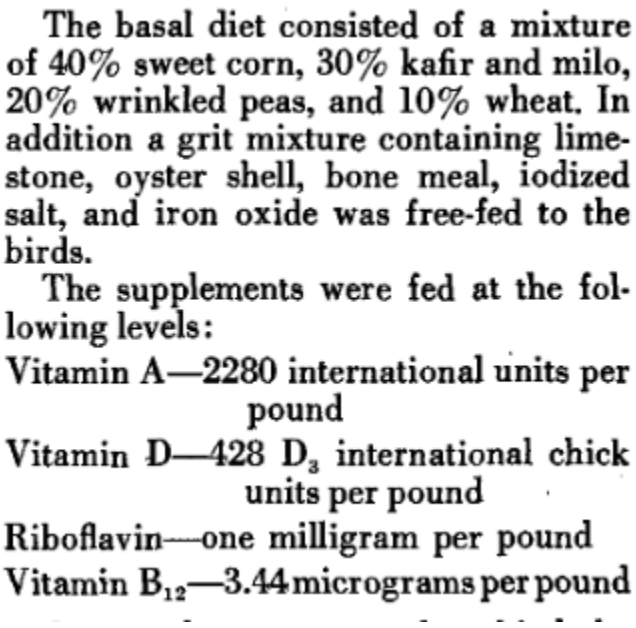
You have two kinds of grit for pigeons:

Insoluble grit is the first. Insoluble grit is grit that they do not process, and which usually takes the form of small stones or minerals. The birds body does not break this down. When they eat it, it will pass through the crop, and settle in the gizzard. This insoluble grit will strike against anything that passes through the gizzard, and help the birds to digest it - hard shell coatings are the usual victims, but insoluble grit within the gizzard is why pigeons are capable of processing things like plants to a limited degree. Before it passes to the rest of the digestive system, it will have already been broken down in part, allowing the enzymes and acids in the rest of the digestive tract to do their job, and pull out as much nutrition as is possible from it.

Soluble grit is the second kind. Soluble grit is a type that pigeons *do* digest and process. There are a variety of ways that owners give this to their birds: it can be as cuttlefish or oyster shell, as a calcium supplement, as part of a specially rendered block, whatever. It will be digested, and it gives the bird calcium.

Without soluble grit, a bird will be calcium deficient. Without insoluble grit, a bird will be malnourished. Grit sold specifically for birds will often have a mixture of insoluble and soluble grit, in part to help the pigeon gain as much nutrition from their food as possible - some foods *do* contain calcium, such as leafy greens, sesame seeds, or almonds, but all of those food require insoluble grit to help break it down for the bird to digest.

Both of these are needed to have healthy, safe, happy birds. This is the reason that pigeons are often fed a great deal of grit! Some lofts feed their pigeons up to 50% grit added in among their seed, but even in the 1950's:



The basal diet consisted of a mixture of 40% sweet corn, 30% kafir and milo, 20% wrinkled peas, and 10% wheat. In addition a grit mixture containing limestone, oyster shell, bone meal, iodized salt, and iron oxide was free-fed to the birds.

The supplements were fed at the following levels:

Vitamin A—2280 international units per pound

Vitamin D—428 D_3 international chick units per pound

Riboflavin—one milligram per pound

Vitamin B_{12}—3.44 micrograms per pound

Lofts were feeding their birds a mixture of things to help ensure their birds were nutritionally balanced. Please note that this keeper also gives his bird vitamins, in addition to the grit. Here is a good discussion of this.

While Dani justifies not giving her birds insoluble grit by saying that:

The Ramsey Loft

A care and advice blog specializing in all aspects of keeping, breeding, raising, training, and rescuing domestic Pigeons and Doves.
If you have an emergency or need a time sensitive answer, my phone number is 706-993-7452.
And if you like or have been in any way helped by what we do, please consider joining our Patreon:
https://www.patreon.com/TheRamseyLoft

> I've seen some people say pigeons need grit to digest food (or at least it helps them digest food) and others say they don't. I know they need calcium, but do they need grit for reasons other than for calcium?

Anonymous

Not really.

A pigeon's crop isn't muscular like a chicken's. Absolutely no grinding happens. Foods just sits and soaks in digestive enzymes.

Their gizzard is so thick with muscle you almost can't cut it with a fresh scalpel!

So grit's mostly for minerals.

MARCH 14, 2018 (10:01 AM) 6 NOTES

(S)

This doesn't particularly make sense. The crop does not palpate or grind food, because food passes through it.. and into the gizzard.. which is thick, because it has grit within it that helps to break down foods like seed shells and vegetable matter.

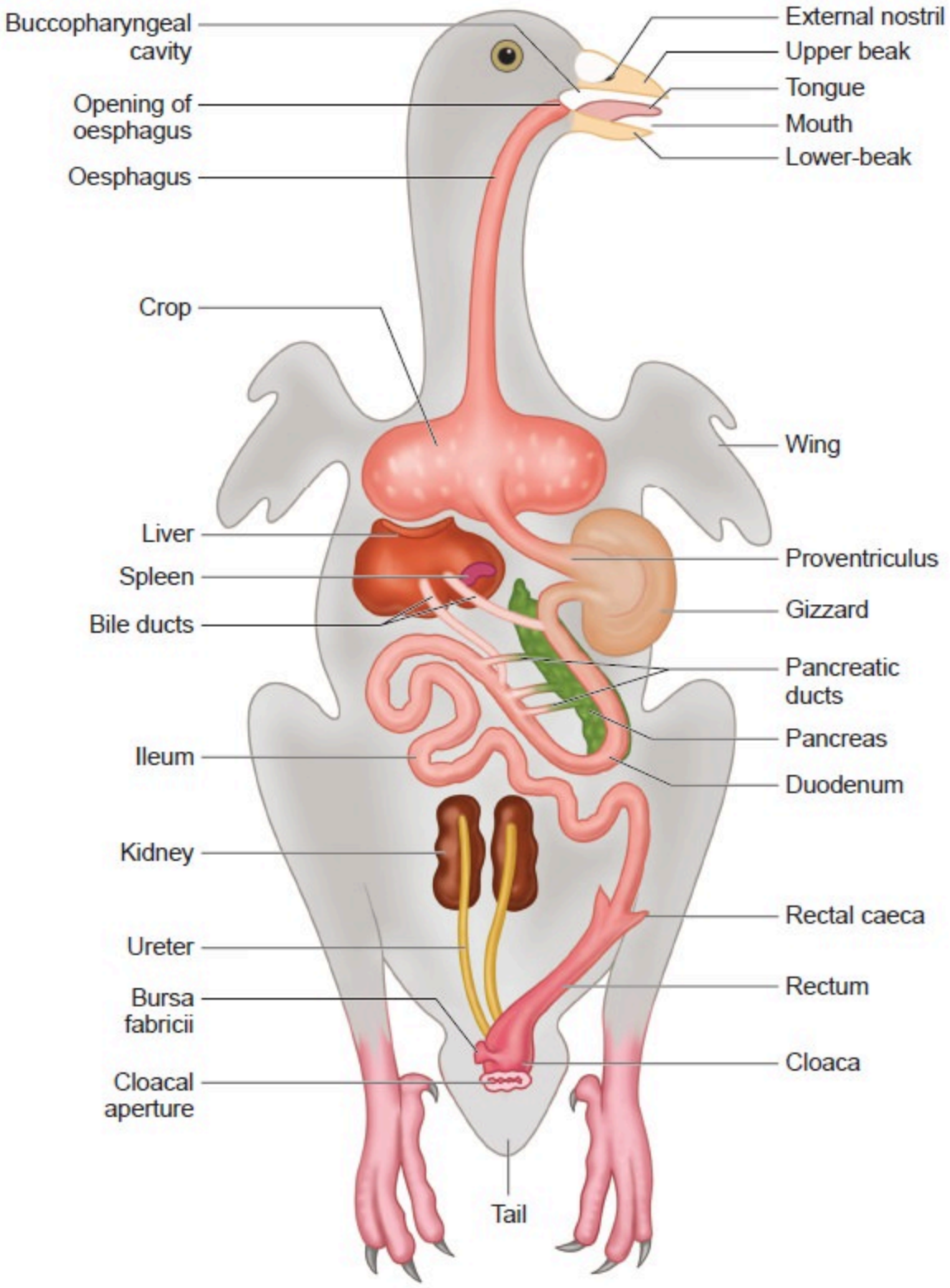


Figure 4.29 Pigeon – Digestive System

And as you can see here:

While our results in pigeon C. livia, the glandular stomach was tubular in shape and no protrudes of gastric papillae during outer wall of it with short isthmus (figure 1b,3a). Either gizzard was spherical in shape during starling and fusiform-like in pigeons, but it was thin muscular wall and clear at fatty tissue with pale color comparatively with pigeon, because the starling birds were represented at omnivores depend on the nutrition adding to the grains. In the pigeons, the gizzard had amount of adipose tissue it's covered most the external wall of it (figure 1b,3a).

These results were accepted with [18, 19] in Striated Scope Owl Otus Scors brucei and goose, turkey, sparrow, kestrel, hoopoe, owl respectively. Whom said the gizzard was fusiform in shape. The study accepted with them about the gizzard surrounded by amount from fatty tissue.

Generally, the gizzard in pigeon was situated posterior toward proventriculus and had thick muscular wall with dark-red in color according to nature of diet, facilities of the grinding grain for indigestion. Therefore the pigeons were considered at granivorous.

- Morphological comparison of proventricular and gizzard in starling birds (sturnus vulgaris) and pigeon (columba livia)

Forgive the rough wording of this: as I keep saying, the hobby is still fairly popular in the global south, and as a result, it is not uncommon to find research articles or other information with rougher translations into English.

But noteworthy from this is the fact that pigeons gizzards share thickness and similarity of shape with other birds that *do* use grit to grind food within said gizzards.. because that's why pigeons, as Dani inexplicably said, their gizzards are so thick. To allow grit to process their food and help with digestion, without injuring the bird.

It is worth noting that this is not a new idea of Dani's. She has been arguing that pigeons do not need grit since 2017 -

> Would a bowl of oystershell grit work for both grit and calcium supplements or would I also need to provide calcium supplements for a hen?

Anonymous

Yes, it would.

Pigeons don't really need grit for mechanical aid. They need it mostly for mineral suppliments.

AUGUST 7, 2017 (7:52 AM) 6 NOTES

[which continued to 2018 -]

> I've seen some people say pigeons need grit to digest food (or at least it helps them digest food) and others say they don't. I know they need calcium, but do they need grit for reasons other than for calcium?

Anonymous

Not really.

A pigeon's crop isn't muscular like a chicken's. Absolutely no grinding happens. Foods just sits and soaks in digestive enzymes.

Their gizzard is so thick with muscle you almost can't cut it with a fresh scalpel!

So grit's mostly for minerals.

MARCH 14, 2018 (10:01 AM) 6 NOTES

But how does refusing to feed insoluble grit impact Dani's birds?

We noted above that Dani does not have a full grasp of pigeon nutrition. However, she does understand signs of calcium deficiency, and has noted them over the years as a sign of poor ownership from others. These are not the only cases, but just a few off the top of my head from writing this.

- Low calcium results in soft eggs. Calcium deficiency can result in smaller or rougher eggs in addition to that.
    - April has laid soft eggs, as well as abnormally small eggs, but was still bred.
    - Harli has laid deformed eggs, but it was noted as a sign that she *may* be taken off of the breeding roster. [A]
    - Satin laid an abnormally small egg. [A]
    - Brunhilde was injured by laying too many eggs, and losing her calcium stores. [A]
- Low calcium impacts bones, especially in the legs.
    - A chick was hatched with an issue in her legs that Dani stated was due to low calcium. [A]
    - Money Penny's legs gave out at one point due to lack of calcium. [A]
    - Reo and both of his parents were injured due to severe calcium deprivation. [A] This was due to her removing calcium from their diet, in the process of treating them with corid.
        - In her own words: *"Corid kills coccidia by replacing thiamin (Vitamin B1) which is required by coccidia for normal growth and reproduction. When coccidia ingest CORID, they experience thiamin deficiency and starve from malnutrition. Vitamin B1 plays a vital role in the distribution and absorption of Calcium. Corid does not replicate that function. So animals on it need extra supplementation with calcium."*
        - This has a separate issue to it as well - namely, Dani acting as her own vet. One of her birds was losing weight. So Dani streamed a fecal sample examination, and between her and one of her patrons that works as a veterinary parasitologist decided the fecal sample showed coccidia trophozoites. **Dani did not take her birds into the vet for a second opinion.**
        - Instead, Dani decided to medicate the birds herself. She typically uses two types of medication at once to worm her birds, in case the parasites are resistant to one.
        - She was out of one medication, so she chose to use Corid instead. **She did not consult a vet for this.**
        - She then decided to remove calcium from the diet of her birds, because she remembered that Corid might have a reaction of some kind with the calcium. Dani did not consult a vet for this, research this first, or even ask the opinion of her patrons before she did so.
        - She waited until a week in to notice that her birds were looking stunted and increasingly delayed. **At that point, she finally looked up the medication.. but at this point, two of her squabs are delayed, and at least two birds suffered neurological damage.** Because Dani did not consult a vet.

Again, these are not the only cases. You can look at the spreadsheet and some of the issues these pigeons have faced, and come to your own conclusions.

FEEDING: Cleanliness, or Lack In There Of

This will be a quick one.

In birds, salmonella is transferred through droppings, saliva and food. It can lie dormant in birds for several months, before the birds show symptoms through things like **sudden and rapid organ failure,** which is why good hygiene for your birds is so vital. Like with *many* diseases with birds, they will go from showing minor symptoms to dead at a very fast pace.

Dani used to let her birds feed out of bowls. This is one of the ways that people are advised to feed pigeons if they have separate eating areas for paired birds. Her sanitation was lacking even at this point, however.

(S)

Please notice the shit literally encrusted on the rim of the foodbowl, the sides, and on the wall behind it, as well as the ground underneath it.

Eventually, she switched to feeding the birds on the ground.

(S)

(S)

Links and in-depth examination can be found in the **PEST SPECIES** section, but Dani's loft has grain beetles, as well as roaches, and occasionally ants. Her birds are constantly undergoing worming cycles, because she claims that worms are always tracked in from the ground outside of her aviary. Grain beetles often play host to tapeworms inside of their guts. Roaches carry salmonella, as well as other diseases, and pest species of all varieties eat the seed that she dumps.

One of the reasons pigeons are kept from eating food that has fallen on the ground is that pigeons are little shit machines that foul up every space they can get a hold of. When pigeons shit, their droppings are full of things that their body has removed - including things like worms. This is why we do not let pigeons eat off of the ground. If they have any illness, communal feeding like that *will* spread it rapidly throughout the group, and then instead of dealing with one bird, you will find yourself with a coop-wide pandemic on your hands.

In the picture above, it looks as if the birds are eating on a dry, clean area. Some might object that this means they are not handling their droppings, or exposed to them, while they eat. However, in Dani's own words, her birds *do* scavenge through the sand and eat their droppings when sufficiently stressed:

> *The ammonia built up because only about six birds were really getting to eat well, and every one else was scavenging their poop in the sand and drinking more water to feel full.*

(S)

With this in mind, it starts making more sense why she feels the need to deworm so often.

INJURIES OF THE BIRDS

INJURIES: Serving as Her Own Vet, Debriding Wounds, and Other Cases of Not Going to the Emergency Vet

> *A captive pet can't leave a stressful environment or choose different food for itself, but a good owner should be well enough educated in the physiology, diet, and behavior of their pet's species to provide the things they need in the first place and know a) when something is wrong and b) whether or not it's with in their capability to treat safely.*
>
> *A good breeder has to understand that EVERYTHING, including the genetic make up of their babies, is their responsibility and be prepared to treat for what ever comes up.*

(S) (A)

With any sort of exotic pet or livestock, owners will eventually have to take on some measure of vetcare at home - especially on a farm, you need to have a basic understanding of the animal's medical care, to ensure that if there is an accident in the middle or the night or something else, your animal is not completely fucked before a professional can arrive. With that said, Dani does not live on a farm. She has pigeons that she does not free-fly, and while she has ferals and rescues that she works to rehabilitate, these often require more care than she is capable of giving.

There has been a recurring theme throughout this fucking novel on how she has not changed her practices, techniques, or opinions much since she has begun raising pigeons. I am sorry to say, that theme isn't breaking now.

Dani has a terrible habit of attempting to serve as her own vet. As stated above, to an extent, this is understandable - many people do things like give their pets vaccinations or insulin shots at home, and knowing the basics of medical care for your animal can be vital for maintaining unexpected injuries until they can be seen by a professional. However, she is not actually good at it, and her birds suffer as a result.

In 2021, when a bird, Ginger, was suffering from the coop's *second* case of ammonia poisoning, Dani assumed it was trich. She said his symptoms were 1:1 to trich, and that she'd already been giving him medication for medicine-resistant trich. She believed that she may have had to

euthanise him, because if his symptoms did not clear, then he might serve as a reservoir for untreatable trich. [A] **He had ammonia poisoning. [A]**

Dani herself noted that:

> They had recieved their boosters for PMV and Paratyphoid two days before, on the last day of Trich treatment with Avionidazole, which combines three meds to treat resistant trich.
>
> Trich meds are notoriously hard on the liver and must be dosed very carefully.
>
> And vaccinations cannot be safely given prior to six weeks of age…

(The source for this is here, but **MASSIVE CONTENT WARNING FOR NECROPSY OF TWO BIRDS.)**

Ginger did not have trich. Trich is something that can be diagnosed by bringing your bird into the vet, but instead, Dani assumed by the symptoms, incorrectly, that he not only had trich - but that he had *medicine-resistant trich,* which requires a harsher, stronger dosage for the bird.. and subsequently, puts a greater load on their liver. This is a load that he did not need to have, and which a vet could have informed her to.

In 2017, March 19th, a Sunday, Dani posted about a squab that had been brought in with obstruction in his throat. She stated that there were no bird vets available until Tuesday at the earliest, so she removed the obstruction manually at home. [A] She injected fluids manually into his skin to help with dehydration. When the crop appeared to have something left within it, she attempted to break it up. She tore the skin on his throat instead. [A]

At this point, she decided to use sterile probes meant for snakes to try and break up the mass within it. She forced him to puke, noting that he was in a great deal of pain, but stated: ***"the good news is that this could be a successfully life saving emergency procedure, if impaction of a baby columbid's crop is caught early enough in the future."*** [A]

The squab died. At the end of it all, she said:

> *"Because of your encouragement, there will be emergency treatment immediately available for the next impacted peep that can save its life."* [A]

Throughout her posts on Bloo, she stated that the avian vet was not available until almost the next week. There is no mention of taking him in for emergency treatment. The implication is that there is no emergency veterinarian hospital or clinic that is capable of seeing, and taking care, of this pigeon squab. But it really isn't clear how the next impacted squab will have access to veterinary care, because Dani's experiment injured this squab, caused it more pain, and ultimately did not work.

Was the emergency vet available this entire time, and she simply chose not to take advantage of it? Or is the experimental home procedure that tore the squab's skin, left it still struggling to breathe and in pain, and ultimately resulted in its death - a failed experimental procedure, mind - now considered a positive? There's a lot of questions there.

Unfortunately, there's no real satisfactory answers to be found.

Most people take their animals to the vet, but it is possible to give vaccinations at home to one's animal. With the proper technique, skill, and knowledge of the procedure, it can be a quick and easy experience that is functionally harmless to the animal.

It *can* be. In 2020, **w**[**hen giving Emilio his salmonella vaccination, Dani injected it into his shoulder blade, causing the bird discomfort.**] [A]

In 2021, another vaccination snafu occurred with Reo and Sherry. She gave two developmentally delayed squabs a double dose of vaccinations and a heavy dosage of medicine-resistant trich. Both of them died as a result, in pain, from massive catastrophic organ failure. (**Major content warning for graphic necropsy of the two birds,** but **source** is here.)

In 2016, when one of Dani's eggs cracked, she sealed it with superglue. This is a common enough practice. However, if an egg cracks and the liquid interior is breached, then bacteria is introduced to the interior of the egg. The embryo, if it survives to full development, is at severe risk from it. For the sake of the bird, most people will destroy eggs that have been breached - a chick hatching out just to die of salmonella or some other bacterial contagion is cruel at best.

Instead, Dani decided to breach the egg herself, injecting bottled water into it and then resealing the egg. She tagged this as "veterinary experiment," and stated: *"When eggs dent under a tight sitter and lose fluid, there is pretty much nothing to lose by trying because the peep will die for sure if left as is or if only the initial crack is sealed."* [A]

This is not necessary to do. An air pocket inside of the egg is needed to prevent the chick from suffocating, and liquid loss from an egg introduces issues to it. With that said, the amount of liquid and air within an egg can vary greatly between birds, and depending on the environment - the embryo will generally adapt to fit the circumstances it is developing within. To quote a long-term breeder from backyardchickens.com:

> *You've already been told the correct size at lockdown--1/3 the total volume. This will usually be near the large end of the egg, but it's possible for it to be on the side a bit or even in the wrong end (which can cause the baby problems, but doesn't necessarily mean it will fail--it's kind of like a breach birth at that point--unusual and difficult but not necessarily fatal). Mine usually develop at an angle in the large end. Babies can also successfully hatch with an air cell that is 1/4 or even nearly 1/2 the volume. Anything*

smaller than 1/4 will be dicey. Larger than 1/2 and you probably already have a dead bird in there.

Watching and recording air cell size will help you a lot with future hatches. Your humidity impacts how well the air cell develops, so if your air cells are too small, you'll know to lower your humidity next time, and vice versa. The porousness of the egg can affect air cell development too, and a large air cell may mean that the shell is more porous. Again, this doesn't spell doom, but it is a good reason to select eggs with good quality shells. An egg that dies during development, or never develops, will evaporate more quickly and result in an extra-large air cell--again, nothing you can do about that. It's best to remove them though, because the extra humidity created by the extra evaporation can cause the other eggs not to develop properly (learned that the hard way--but it's mostly a problem if you have a large batch and a bunch of eggs that aren't developing--for me it was quail eggs, which are so tiny I wasn't bothering to candle, which was a mistake).

An air cell that is too small does not provide enough space for the baby to get its bill in and breathe for the 12-48 hours between internal pip and external pip. An air cell that is too large does not provide enough room for the baby to complete its development. In any event, there is not much you can do at this point to help except just watch. Trying to help nearly always does more harm than good at this stage, especially if you're new at it.

Dani claims this worked successfully on two dove eggs, and last noted attempting it on a pigeon's egg. If it was successful here, I certainly couldn't find the follow-up post. [A]

On 09/16/21, two birds were given to Dani for rehabilitation. They had been attacked by a hawk, and in one of them, Agatha's case, had a wound across her head due to it. 10/25/21, over a week after she arrived, she was taken to the vet and given antibiotics. [A]

On 11/10/21, Dani noted that she has been trimming Agatha's scabs. "When it starts peeling up, I usually try to get the edges so the center isn't... Oh shit. It just occurred to me that she may actually need her head wound debrided... She can't scratch it. Or itch her little face..." She peels off the majority of the scab, and then proceeds to do the same with the scab on her leg, noting that skin had been left rotting in the wood.

After she is done, she states: "[the leg wound is] now gross jerky." [A] Dani decides not to dip her afterwards in the permethrine, because the removal of these scabs is said to have been very traumatic for the bird.

On the 22nd, she debrides the wound on Agatha's leg once more. Agatha's tendon *was* severed when she was brought in, but somehow the fact it was still inside of the bird was missed by the vet. Dani chooses to remove what appears to be the dried, severed remains of the tendon from the leg, and says: "Jesus, no wonder she's had a goddamn fever as long as she's lived here!" [A]

At no point during either of these posts does Dani express the need to take her bird to the vet. A fever in a bird that is on antibiotics, has been actively attacked by a wild predator, and was feral prior, is something a vet should be alerted to and actively handling. While debriding is something that is sometimes necessary for a wound to heal, that is something a medical practictioner should decide, and perform - not in someone's loft or home, both of which are decidedly not sterile environments, but in a hospital where bacteria cannot infect the newly opened wound, and where the bird can be treated with painkillers before and after.

After Dani chooses to manually remove this tendon from this birds foot, Agatha is noted to no longer be able to use this leg except as a crutch.

Other birds also might've faced debriding. **The pictures of Brightheart on the blog are incredibly graphic, and I will not be linking to them as a result - you can /search/Brightheart, or scalping recovery, and see many of them yourself.** Brightheart, a pigeon that was scalped and her tongue severed by another one of Dani's birds, had a major wound on her skull that increasingly migrated upwards over time. The scabs appeared as if they were continuously being removed. It was never mentioned explicitly, so this is just a suspicion - but fucking with a major wound, such as in Agatha's case, has already been admitted to, and is something that should be handled by a veterinarian in a sterile environment.

I have gone over Dani's sanitation and cleaning within her coop. Disregarding that aspect entirely, she herself notes that Agatha is traumatised by the procedure, and Dani has had, over the years, through her own, direct admission, traumatised numerous of her birds while attempting to assist them. Proper vet care is a necessity for every animal, for their physical health, but also their mental health. Dani talks big about how pigeons are fully sentient beings, on par with a human child in terms of their intellect, but when she has the opportunity for easy solutions to lower their distress, she does not take them.

It does not really matter to me why. Livestock, companion animals, or simply pets all should be able to live in a stress-free environment, even when injured. She is not giving her animals that, and rarely actually has: **even when she takes her animals into the vet, Dani has a tendency to prioritise her own judgment over theirs.**

The following link contains pictures of a wounded bird:
On 07/28/20, a bird was brought in that had been used for dog training. Licorice was found with a zip tie cutting into her leg, emaciated, an abraded heel and a wound in her keel. [A] They gave her boosters, investigated the wound, and decided that it may very well be a dog tooth embedded in her chest. Thankfully, they took her into the vet.

Upon the bird being x-rayed, the vet informed them that they would leave it. An open, severe wound in the chest would be dangerous, anesthesia is difficult for birds, and the benefits of removing it were sorely outweighed by those two facts.

So when they came home, Dani began removing the object herself. Keep in mind, at this point, in her own words, **she did not know what the object was:** what she knew is that the vet said that it would be safest to leave the object in the bird, because removing it had a high risk of leaving a large wound in the birds' chest, which would be difficult to close, and because placing birds' under anaesthesia is always dangerous for birds.

Dani decided to remove it, piece by piece, regardless.

Remember: this is directly against the vet's advice. It was not performed in a sterile environment. Dani takes pictures of handling the wound, prior to cutting it open and after, when it is exposed to the air. She is not wearing gloves in either of these pictures, and per the vet, this could very well be opening up a wound in the middle of this already wounded, in pain, birds' chest.

This is not kind behaviour to a frightened, injured feral bird, who is not only placed directly into a terrifying and stressful experience, but who is also now at risk - not only from the damage from their initial wounds - but to infection through the new one that Dani created.

This is not responsible pet ownership. This is not responsible animal stewardship, to any degree.

And Dani does not only choose to serve as her own vet, but she allows others in her sphere to do so as well. One member of her server had a pigeon that needed surgery. **They proceeded to do said surgery at home, without anesthetizing the pigeon, describing it to other members and sharing pictures of the process. This is a copy of a log that includes pictures of an animal being actively tortured: please, please keep that in mind before you click.**

The member remained in the server afterwards, and the messages remained up.. until the Ramsey Loft *deleted their own server,* in response to people discussing the material contained within. **Dani left up a graphic, image-filled, detailed post on torturing a pigeon in her pigeon breeding server, and refused to remove it or the members involved with the act.**

INJURIES: Animal Cruelty & Negligence

Sun Tsu was one of the foundation breeders of the Ramsey Loft's current stock. Like many of her birds, he faced health problems to a degree that is distressing to see: it is very likely he was not genetically healthy from the start, and the environment may have worsened his baseline condition. Dani noted that he had a *"respiratory condition that may be structural, or may be an allergy, or may be something like Asthma [developed] at about three years old" [A],* that he "has attacks if he's stressed" [A], and that he has to be kept separate from the other birds to avoid being harassed.

At the point that Dani acknowledged he would need to be euthanised, he was panting audibly through his mouth, and rocking in place. Separated from the other birds, clearly in physical distress, this is inarguably a pretty low quality of life. His lungs were inflamed at this point. The options were to scope him, scan him, and run a full body of tests, all of which would end up being very expensive, or to euthanise him. Not having thousands of dollars to sink into your pet on a whim is understandable, and unfortunately common for most pet owners. The United States' economy does not often allow households to have savings to that amount.

Dani chose to euthanise him. This is understandable. I do not blame people for not having thousands of dollars to spend on a single animal: I wish everyone had that financial ability, but that is not the country that Americans live in. With that said, she decided to remove Sun Tsu, a bird with a poor quality of life, who is actively showing signs of being in pain and whom they know is experiencing inflammation on his lungs, from antibiotics prior to the euthanisation.

> To make the cultures easier to grow, we are stopping his antibiotics, and will perform the procedure some time next week.

MAY 6, 2020 (2:44 PM) 45 NOTES

Removing him for a full week from antibiotics is cruel. I do not find that acceptable, because the bird is already in pain. [A]

> 9/4/20
>
> We finally had to make the call to ease Sun Tsu to sleep yesterday morning.
>
> Dr. Mayer came in early for him so that neither he nor her other scheduled appointments would have to wait to be taken care of.

It will be another three months before Sun Tsu is actually euthanised. [A] That is animal cruelty.

Pigeons can easily live up to twenty fucking years. Sun Tsu died before he turned five.

In 2020, the year that he died, Dani noted that he is the oldest pigeon in her loft. [A]

That's fucking horrifying.

This is not unusual for her. If you scroll up and read the section on Bloo, [A] the same callous attitude towards the hatchlings' quality of life and pain is evident. With Molasses, another squab that she attempted to assist, [A] she drags out having her euthanised for over a month, despite the fact the squab is anxious, in pain, and actively traumatised. With Stormy, once again, it took

nearly a full month for her to be euthanised, despite the fact she was a feral trapped inside, with a very low quality of life, and amputation would have potentially killed her in itself.

From above, here is a quick list of the injuries her birds have faced. This is by no means an extensive list, but the thing about it is - most people do not experience even a quarter of these issues in their years of breeding pigeons. Dani has been breeding pigeons since 2015 or so, at the latest, most generous estimate of it.

She has experienced all of these issues for that entire duration, with no real sign of growth, change, or prevention. At what point that your birds keep getting injured or dying do you decide to change?

Never, apparently, if you're Dani.

I'm not going to list every single injury or death, because this fucking document is already longer than a master's thesis and I am sick of digging into how this woman is abusing her birds.

Please refer to the spreadsheet, and feel free to come to your own conclusions.

Some of the ones from the top of the paper, though, for your reference here and for the road:

- Squab deaths:
  - Due to her AC going out, and alternative methods of cooling off her animals were not taken, hatchlings were hatched prematurely. [A]
  - She knelt on a squab, crushing his skull. [A]
  - She sat on another squab, breaking his leg. [A]
  - **CW: VERY GORY PICTURES OF AN INJURED AND DYING BIRD IN ALL LINKS IN THIS BULLET POINT.**
    - Very early on in her tumblr history, but after at least a year of breeding pigeons and doves separately, she allowed a pigeon to maul one of her dove squabs. Note the cute picture of the pigeon covered in blood! After taking the squab to the vet and getting stitches, the squabs organs prolapsed out of it upon her walking away for "five minutes".
    - To follow this note: doves and pigeons are not recommended to be left unsupervised, or to have much interactions - pigeons are much larger, much more aggressive, and as seen above, a lot more likely to kill doves. So Dani allowed one of her pigeons to sleep on her doves' cage, one of which is a sickly albino.

- Negligence-related injuries have included:
  - She dipped a bird in pesticides to remove lice, resulting in feathers that would not dry without assistance, and semi-severe chemical burns. [A] This happened twice with two separate birds, but **she'd previously noted the risk of dips compounding medical issues in her birds.. back in 2017. [A]**

- Another housebird got in behind the couch, caught on her back, and suffocated to death. **[A]**
- Another bird went missing on 3/1/21: **several days later, she stated she smelt death in the loft,** [A] but dismissed it as being the faeces from her hens. She discovered his body three months later, on 6/3/21, when it had already rotted and been infested by maggots [A] in an area that was accessible to other birds.